

PENTHOUSE

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MEN

JUNE 2016 | \$14.95 NZ \$15.90

THE INTERVIEW:
ALEXANDER
SKARSGARD

THE PANAMA
PAPERS

TURNBULL'S
ROLL OF
THE DICE

UFC BAD BOY
MARK HUNT

THE ARTIST
KNOWN AS
PRINCE

THE POWER ISSUE

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MANAGING EDITOR

Nathan Hammond
nathan@phpublications.com

FEATURES EDITOR

Sean Bruce
sean@phpublications.com

VIDEO DIRECTOR

Nick D'Arcy
nick@phpublications.com

ART DIRECTOR

Gavin Morrison

CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Freeth, Nick Hollins,
Kate Iselin, Nick Gordon, Ryan Wittingslow,
Cheryl Tan, Beau Connolly, Charlie Hardy

CIRCULATION AND PRODUCTION

Bruna Rodwell
bruna@phpublications.com

ADVERTISING

PR/Marketing Manager: Anessa Caputo
Anessa@phpublications.com

PUBLISHER

Flithy Gorgeous Pty Ltd
Level 10, 1 Chandos Street,
St Leonards NSW 2065, Australia
PO Box 2255, St Leonards NSW 1590
Tel: 1300 784 516
info@phpublications.com

DISTRIBUTORS

Gordon & Gotch
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FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

THERE is a meme doing the rounds on the internet at the moment that reads – "our generation is too late to explore earth, and too early to explore our galaxy". It's poignant, and somewhat true, but not entirely. Sure, the Earth, as we know it, has been explored a thousand times over, yet we still have no idea what exists at the bottom of our own ocean. Occasionally, we get a glimpse into this alien world in the form of some nightmare-inducing creature that we pull up from the murky depths below. But it largely remains a mystery, and perhaps thankfully so.

The space race is well and truly alive. Just as man first walked on the moon in 1969, man may very well colonise Mars in 2025. That is truly astounding. But what of life on Mars? Will it be filled with stamp wielding bureaucrats, like in *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, or will it be filled with new wonders and possibilities, hitherto unimagined on Earth? Who knows, I guess we'll have to wait and find out.

Which brings me to my point. What was it again? Oh yes, bureaucrats, power and exploration... The recent exposé of the Panama Papers has allowed us unparalleled access into a largely unknown alien world. It's one full of unimaginable power, wonders, riches, tax evasion and corruption.

And what of power in the face of transparency? How will it hold up? What will we fish up from the murky depths below? Find out in this Power Issue of Penthouse, where we take a look at the recent Panama Paper revelations and all they've exposed.

Or perhaps you're looking for something a little closer to home? No worries then, we've got everything you need to know on the upcoming election - the good, the bad and the ugly.

Sure, we might be a little too late to explore earth, and a little too early to explore the galaxy, but for now, there is a whole lot of exploring to be done right here on this boring old planet we call Earth.



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PENTHOUSE

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Photography by Marco Michieletto

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EVENT PLANNER

SEXPO

MAY 12 - MAY 16

It's that time of year again, Sexpo is here and it's turning 20! Which means that while it's still not technically legal to drink in the States, it is here, yay! Now, where were we? Oh yes, Sexpo is a sexuality and lifestyle exhibition. Come along and meet all your favourite adult stars and exotic dancers and get in on the action.

STRIP STRIP, HOORAY!

JUNE 4 - JUNE 11

The one and only Dita Von Teese brings Strip Strip, Hooray Down Under for the first time ever. 'Strip, Strip Hooray!' showcases her most extravagant acts, along with a show-stopping support cast of the crème de la crème of modern burlesque. Don't miss out for an unforgettable night of sophisticated striptease

and riotous comedy!

FUTURE CLASSIC PRESENTS TA-KU FEAT. WAFIA

JUNE 3

An online phenomenon from Perth with millions of plays, countless mixtapes, high profile remixes and the sumptuous Songs To Break Up To & Songs to Make Up To EPs, the 'genre-killer' Ta-ku makes his live solo Australian debut in a one-off performance at Vivid LIVE - staging a specially-crafted show featuring Wafia, a string quartet and kaleidoscopic visuals.

TEDXSydney

MAY 25

Known for curating some of the most incredible, unique and inspiring talks from around the world, TEDx talks have become the leading platform for the propagation of ideas, creativity and innovation

around the world and it returns to the Sydney Opera House this May. Don't miss out.

THE GOOD FOOD AND WINE TOUR JUNE - OCTOBER

The undisputed food event of the year, the Good Food & Wine Show will be returning June through October, as it makes its way around Australia. Try beers from around the world, seasonal produce, cocktails and foreign delights, The Good Food and Wine Tour is an absolute must see for all foodies and anyone who just loves food. Counts us in!

ACMI PRESENTS SCORSESE EXHIBITION

MAY - SEPTEMBER

Melbourne's ACMI is proudly presenting SCORSESE, a major exhibition celebrating one of the most influential

directors of our time - Martin Scorsese. SCORSESE features 600 objects including storyboards, hand annotated film scripts, unpublished production stills, costumes and film clips. Some exhibits have been drawn directly from Scorsese's private collection, including the Scorsese family home, the Robert De Niro Collection and the Paul Schrader Collection.

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

JUNE 8 - JUNE 19

The Sydney Film Festival's 63rd year showcases the best in cinema from across Australia and around the world, including features, documentaries, short films, retrospectives, restorations, animation and more. One of the world's oldest film festivals, Sydney Film Festival reflects the historic development

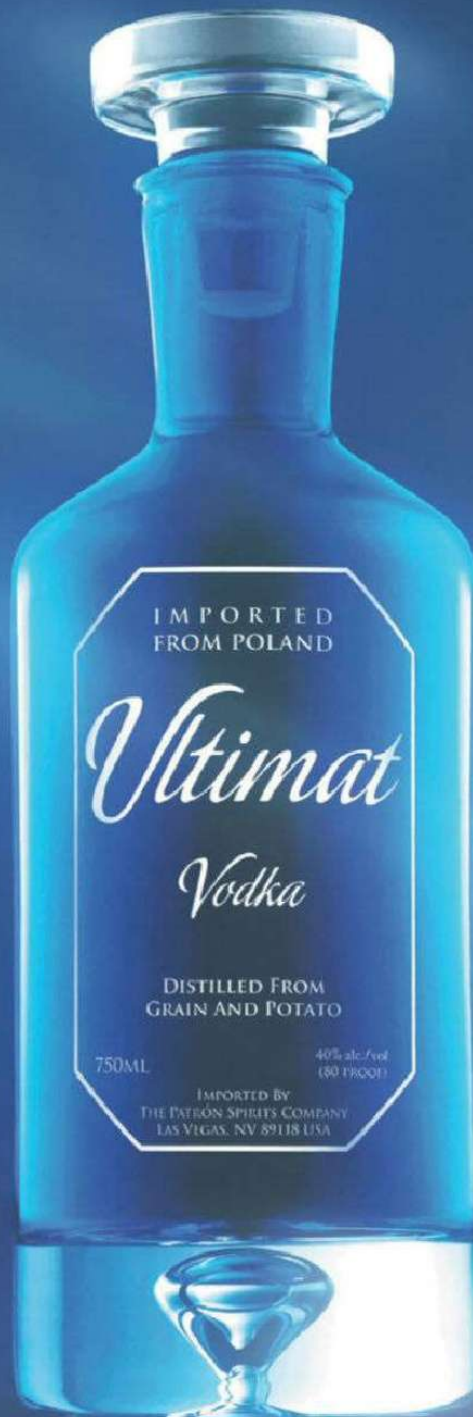
of the Australian film industry. Highlights also include twelve films that vie for the official competition with a \$60,000,00 cash prize based on the decision of a jury of international and Australian filmmakers and industry professionals.

HENRY TALBOT'S FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY: A FREE EXHIBITION

MAY - AUGUST

Henry Talbot is a post-war Australian fashion photographer. Originally from Germany, Talbot brought an international edge and continental style to Australian fashion. He became a leading figure in the Australian fashion scene throughout the 1960s and 70s with his work regularly featured in Australian Vogue and Vanity Fair. See it May through August at the Ian Potter Centre in Melbourne.

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THE DEBRIEF

HACKERS LOSE \$800 MILLION

A SIMPLE SPELLING ERROR FOILED THE
BIGGEST BANK HEIST IN THE WORLD



WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

TYPO COSTS HACKERS \$800 MILLION DOLLARS

HACKERS recently learnt the importance of paying attention in school when a simple spelling error caused them to lose \$800 million in a heist.

The semi-literate cyber criminals hacked into the Bank of Bangladesh from a remote location and posing as officials, began to siphon millions of dollars from the Federal Reserve Bank in New York to

fake companies in the Philippines and Sri Lanka. All was going well, with over \$20 million secured when a typo undid them.

On their fifth transfer, the cyber criminals misspelled one of their bogus company names, writing 'foundation', instead of 'foundation', and in doing so, alerted authorities to their activities.

Considering the hackers had already scored over \$20 million, it's still not a bad

payday. The hacker police are currently on the lookout, however, given the fact that the hack was done remotely, it seems unlikely that the perpetrators will be located, or the money found. It's a win for cyber-criminals and a major loss for banks - don't worry, they'll make sure somebody else pays.

If the group had been successful, it would have been the biggest bank heist in history.

WOMAN SCULLS ENTIRE BOTTLE OF COGNAC INSTEAD OF GIVING IT TO AIRPORT SECURITY



ONE woman has made headlines after sculling an entire bottle of cognac in front of airport security, before attempting to board a plane.

The Chinese woman, known only as Ms. Zhao, refused to hand over her \$200 bottle of Remy Martin XO Excellence to the presumably thirsty airport security. Instead, she did what we all think about doing every time we're told to 'hand over the liquor', scull it right there and then. Because who wants to be sober for a flight?

Unfortunately for Ms. Zhao, whilst we appreciate her spirit, her rock 'n' roll journey ended there. According to reports, after necking the bottle, she quickly became aggressive, yelling obscenities and generally acting like someone who had just sculled an entire bottle of liquor. Ten points for effort though, really.

The moral of the story? Well, there isn't one. But if you consider it, it's a win for travellers around the world, who have at one point or another, had their precious alcohol taken from them after buying it just moments before at Duty-Free. Because honestly, what better in-flight entertainment than a bottle of spirits and an unsuspecting passenger at your mercy for 8 hours?

Bob Hawke would be proud.

NURSE LOSES LICENSE AFTER TAKING PICTURE OF UNCONSCIOUS PATIENT'S DICK

IN a case of patient care gone too far, one nurse had her license revoked after being caught-out snapping dick-pics of her anaesthetized patient and sending them to her friends.

The upstate New York nurse was doxxed-in by co-workers in 2014, whom, thankfully were not ok with the snap-happy nurse taking photos of a patients naughty bits.

C'mon, can't you see the funny side guys, he's sleeping!

According to New York Daily News, Johnson was given three years probation and had her nurse license revoked after taking a plea deal for the misdemeanor of disseminating of unlawful surveillance photos.

In a collective 'thank fuck' moment for humanity, the state Board of Regents reported that Johnson "did not contest the charge of moral unfitness in the practice", because to be honest, you don't really have much moral high ground to stand on when you're caught snapping pics of an unconscious patients dick on your iPhone.



LOVESICK MAN HIJACKS PLANE TO GET TO HIS EX

HUMANITY never ceases to amaze us. It was reported that a man hijacked a plane in order to get a letter to his ex-wife.

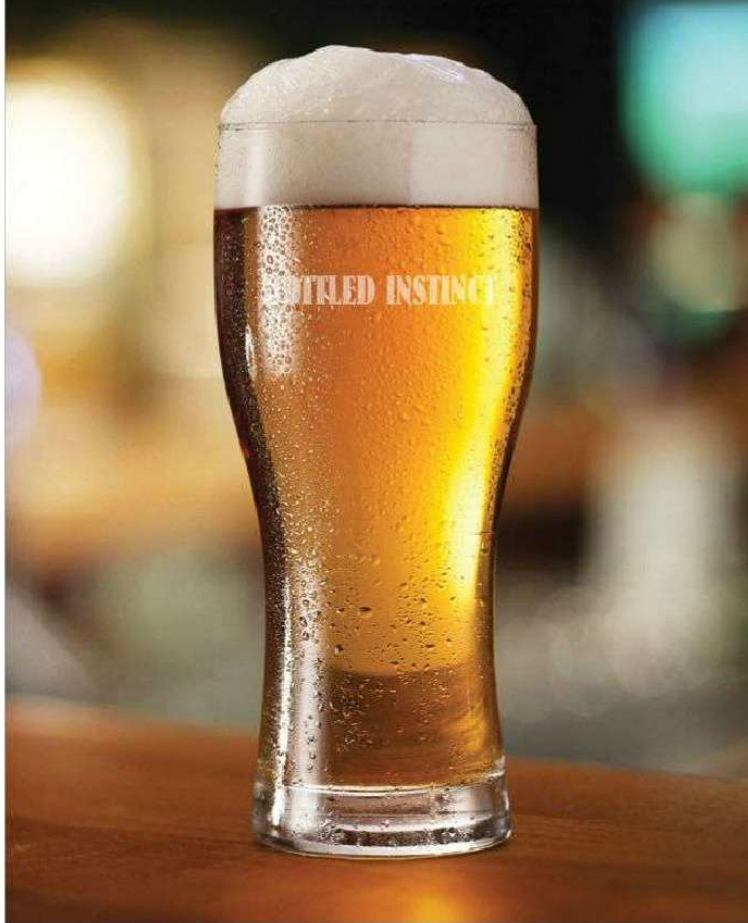
The hijacker, who has been affectionately described as 'an idiot, not a terrorist', forced the pilot to land the EgyptAir flight MS181 shortly after taking off from Alexandria Airport.

The EgyptAir plane, carrying 82 passengers, including 10 U.S. citizens, was seized by a lovesick man who claimed to have a bomb. The plane was en route from Alexandria to Cairo.

Given the 'terror climate' in Europe at the moment, the response was obviously one of alarm.

However, the situation quickly defused when it was discovered that all he wanted to do was get a letter to his Cypriot ex-wife, which he tossed out of the cabin and onto the tarmac once the plane had pulled up.

Obviously, he hasn't heard of email.



BEER MADE FROM VAGINAS IS NOW AN ACTUAL THING

REMEMBER the last time you took a sip of beer and thought, 'I wonder what that would taste like if it was brewed using vaginal yeast'?

Well that hasn't stopped one company from creating the 'first beer with vaginal lactic acid in the world'. They claim that the beer contains a 'quintessence of femininity'. Good idea? Well, that's up to you to decide. Regardless, it's certainly gaining attention.

The Order of Yoni's website reads: "The secret of the beer lies in her vagina..."

"Using hi-tech microbiology, we isolate, examine and prepare lactic acid bacteria from the vagina of a unique woman.

"The bacteria, lactobacillus, transfer woman's features, allure, grace, glamour and her instincts into beers and other products, turning them into a dance with a lovely goddess".

Before we continue, you should fire whoever wrote the copy, because that was total shite.

The product, called 'Bottled Instinct', is created by taking a 'gynealogical stick' and wiping it in the vagina of this 'unique (slightly uneasy) woman'. The vaginal bacteria is then cleaned and multiplied, before being used to ferment the beer.

So, who is this 'unique woman' you just can't wait to taste? Well, it's Czech model, Alexandra Brendlov, and now it's your chance to essentially drink from her vagina.

The creators of the beer have launched a campaign hoping to fund their project by raising \$170,000. Donations will get you anything from a pallet of 1000 beers, branded glasses, or our personal favourite, 'girlfriends bacteria'. Yes, you get your own bacteria swab from the vagina of a Czech model. Finally, someone has heard our prayers.

At the time of reading this, they had made about \$30. The future is not looking too good for vaginal beer, or your vaginal swab sample. Sorry gents.

DIRTY VAGINA? GET IT STEAMED

THE list of 'things we have celebrities to thank for' has grown, and now includes 'vaginal steaming'. Yes, it's a thing. Thanks, Gwyneth Paltrow.

The new beauty treatment aka 'V-Steam' is gaining popularity thanks to its claimed health benefits, which state that it: 'strengthens the nervous system, stimulates menstrual discharge, and kills intestinal worms'. Where do we sign up?

"You sit on what is essentially a mini-throne, and a combination of infrared and Mugwort steam cleanses your uterus. It is an energetic release—not just a steam douche—that balances female hormone levels. If you're in LA, you have to do it."

Yes, that's correct. You get to sit on a 'mini-throne', next to strangers, whilst your vagina gets steamed.

However, gents, before you think about buying one for your girlfriend's next valentines present, keep in mind that the V-Steam has not been cleared by the FDA and so any claims that it is beneficial could be the company blowing smoke.

If you're still intrigued (we understand), why not get one for yourself as well. Yes, there is a steam bath for men! It will 'cure' your haemorrhoid discomfort. Sounds like a setting for your next romantic date. Just be sure to send us a photo of you sitting on the 'throne'.





WOMAN'S ARSE EXPLODES DURING SEX, BOYFRIEND JAILED

BUTTOCKS injections, also known as buttock augmentation, gluteal augmentation, or our personal favourite, a Brazilian butt lift, is the latest booty enhancing surgery that you might want to think twice about before signing up for.

Tamara Martin was killing two birds with one stone, showing off her latest ass injection. Whilst having sex with her boyfriend, she asked her lover Williams to stop because something didn't 'feel right'. He didn't, instead he allegedly started going harder. It was at this point when Martin's ass began to blow up like that kid from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

"We was doing it and then he flipped me over and began to tear it up from the back. Asked him several times to be gentle, then I began to beg him to stop. That's when he started going harder. I felt pressure building up in my booty and it felt like my booty was tripling in size, I felt the skin stretching. It was a pain I never experienced"

Well aware of the risks involved, Martin had recently received butt injections to give her a larger butt. The thing about bubble butts is that they pop.

Thankfully, her boyfriend has been arrested and charged with assault after ignoring her pleas to stop during sex.

One of the accused's relatives released a statement to Radar saying, "HE IS THE FIRST DUDE TO GO TO JAIL FOR BUSSIN A B*TCHES @SS, I MEAN HE LITERALLY BEAT THAT @SS FLAT HE MUST HAVE BEEN SLAM F*CKING HER, I HOPE THE JUDGE GOES EASY ON HIM.

And that kids, is why you should stay in school.

SNAKES ON A (SUSHI) TRAIN

ONE man has been arrested after making threats and throwing a large python at customers in a sushi restaurant.

The man, who presumably has a thing for snakes, was showing kids his 13-foot-long python outside of the Studio City eatery just moments before he became agitated. Up until this point, parents did not note anything suspicious about the man, who was showing the kids his snake, out the front of the store.

After paying his \$200 bill, the man (now known as snake man) walked outside, and immediately came back in, yelling obscenities, with a snake in his arms. In what must've been a bizarre sight for someone looking up from the sushi train, the man then threw the python down.

Surprisingly, people in the restaurant didn't respond well.

"Get this thing out! You know, everyone's like eating so customers are yelling, 'Get this thing out! Are you crazy,'" said Jessie Davaadorj, a waitress.

But he wouldn't have a bar of it. Snake man was determined to turn this sushi train into a zoo.

"We asked him like three or four times and he said, 'no'. He was like starting fights with the customers so we had to call the police and fire department," said Sissi Dashtort, another waitress.

And finally, we'll leave it at the quote of the night, which, we're not really sure what to make of.

"He was the only customer who brought a giant snake," Dashtort said.



RICH KIDS OF INSTAGRAM ARE LANDING THEIR PARENTS IN JAIL

THINK twice before posting images of your parent's assets online, because it might land them in jail. Rich kids of the super wealthy are unknowingly putting their family assets at risk by flaunting their excessive lifestyles on social media.

Sites like Instagram and Facebook are being used by many of the world's richest kids to show off exactly how rich they are (really rich). Unfortunately for these poor, white debutantes, these sites are also being used by investigators to prove that their parents are hiding assets that they claim not to own.

Oisin Fouere, managing director of K2 Intelligence in London, said social media had become its "first port of call" when investigating the dealings of the mega-rich. Investigators are not only able to use images to place the rich kids and their family assets, but can also use the metadata stored on the images to gain further information on the properties, time of the image, exact location and so forth.

In one case, a man claimed that he had no items of significant value to his name, was found to be lying when a photo, posted by one of his children, showed him posing on the family's £12 million pound super-yacht in the Bahamas.

Another man in a divorce case claimed to be completely broke but was found to be lying when investigators reviewed all the places that his children had geo-tagged images of themselves on social media. They cross-referenced the images with property holdings and found that the man who claimed to be broke was in possession of over \$60 million in property.



WOUNDED SOLDIER TO RECEIVE FIRST PENIS TRANSPLANT IN THE U.S.

A WOUNDED U.S. soldier has been selected by Johns Hopkins Hospital to receive the country's first penis transplant. The announcement was made recently and surgeons have been practicing the procedure on corpses to prepare for their patient.

Johns Hopkins Hospital is known for its ground-breaking surgery, such as implanting the first defibrillator in a human heart, or being the first to separate twins who were joined at the head. Now, the hospital will perform a penis transplant on a former U.S. soldier who was wounded in the Afghanistan war.

"It's an embarrassing topic that no one wants to talk about," says Thorn Wold, an ex U.S. marine medic who served in the Iraq war. But it's the first thing injured soldiers usually ask about. "Is everything ok down there doc? My wife's at home, we're trying to have a baby when I get back".

By the time you read this, the surgery may have taken place. It will involve joining the nerves and blood vessels with the hope of providing a fully functional organ, allowing for urination, sensation and sex.

"When you meet these guys and you realise what they've given for the country, it makes a lot of sense," Dr. Richard Redett told Reuters.



TURN SPERM OFF WITH THE FLICK OF A SWITCH

FRUSTRATED with the lack of male contraceptive options available, German inventor Bimek came up with his own device which allows men to 'turn their sperm off', or back on again, at the flick of a switch.

It's called the Bimek SLV and he's been testing it out since 2009, when he had two (gummy bear sized) valves implanted into his body. The device is activated with the literal flick of a mechanical switch, and will be located somewhere under the skin, whilst the device shutoff valves are located in the scrotum, in

what's known as the vas deferens - the two ducts that transfer sperm from the testicles to the urethra.

However, activation is not immediate, the user will need to 'clear out his pipes', or 'flush the swimmers', which will take approximately 30 ejaculations, or 30 days, depending on their frequency - then you're good to go. With the sperm 'off' switch activated, the oncoming sperm will be redirected out of the ducts and back into the scrotal tissue where they should be reabsorbed.



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BURGLARS WRAP THEMSELVES IN TIN FOIL TO FOOL BANK ALARM, FORGET ABOUT CCTV

POLICE are after two men who broke into a bank, whilst wrapped in tin foil, in a bizarre attempt to fool the bank's alarm system.

It's one of the stranger robbery attempts we've read about recently, and it almost worked, had they only remembered the CCTV. The tin foil did, in fact, foil the bank's alarm system, how? We do not know. That being said, the bank's CCTV caught the two robbers, and a police response unit was dispatched.

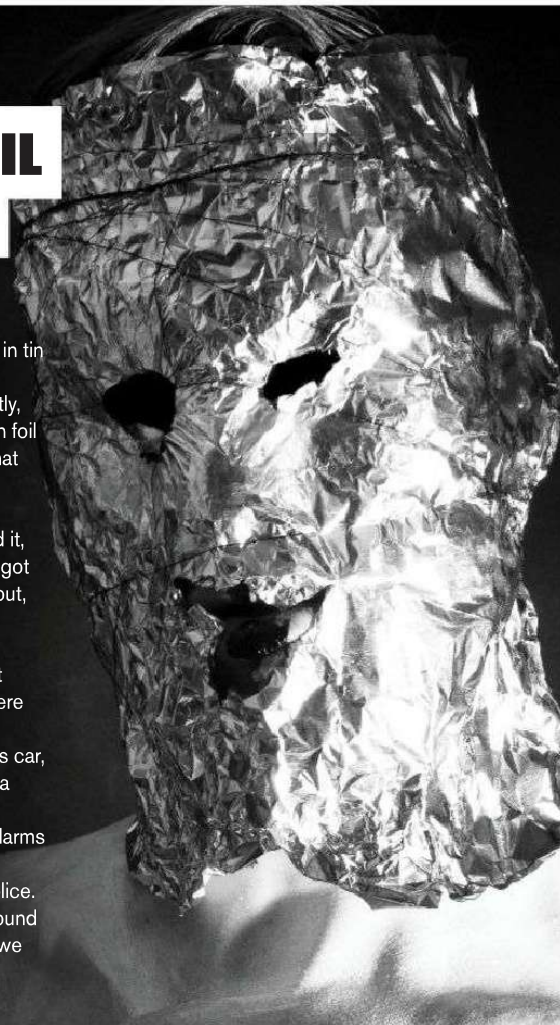
In what must have been a bizarre sight for anyone who witnessed it, the two robbers, covered head to toe in tin foil, fled the scene and got away. However, a man, thought to be an accomplice keeping lookout, was caught and detained.

Police released images of the men crawling around on the floor - looking more like alien spacemen than robbers. In their hurried get away they left a few items behind, including blowtorches, which were likely to be used to force open the safes.

However, the men, who are believed to have fled in a white sports car, left empty handed. The crime took place at Banco do Brasil in Praia Grande in the early hours of the morning.

A local police spokesman said: "They wanted to make sure the alarms didn't detect their presence by using the tin foil, but the staff at the bank's CCTV control HQ saw them moving around and alerted police.

"We searched the area and stopped people near the bank and found a suspect who was hiding in bushes and had a police record that we took in for questioning."



PLUMBING FOR TERRORISTS

Someone much wiser than us once said something along the lines of, 'any press is good press', however, experience dictates this isn't entirely true, as one Texan plumbing company owner found out recently.

Mark Oberholtzer is seeking more than \$1 million in damages from a dealership after his Ford F-250 ended up in Syria's civil war.

He was notified after an image depicting his truck with the decals 'Mark-1 Plumbing', was tweeted around the world. It probably wouldn't have caused so much of a stir, except that the truck was being used by Islamic militants, and had a 23 mm twin barrelled autocannon mounted on the back. "When that photo got tweeted and then circulated across the world, you knew pretty well that if you needed to get some plumbing done with an anti-aircraft gun in the back of ... the truck, maybe you ought to call 'Mark-1

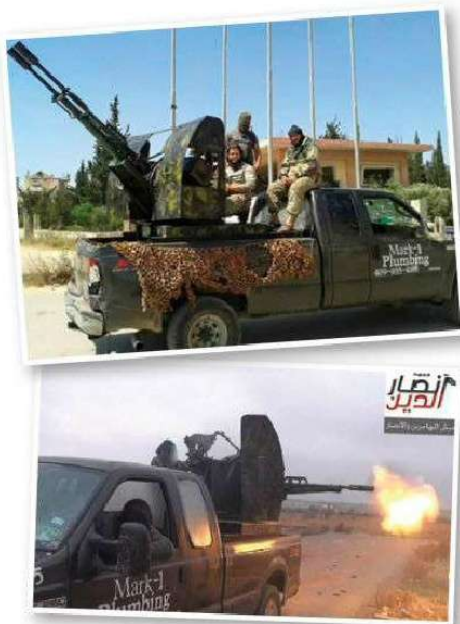
Plumbing', which is not what he intended," said Robert Wilonsky, digital managing editor for the Dallas Morning News.

It's a hilarious case of mistaken identity, but then again, not for Mark, who said he has since received some pretty serious threats from it.

"By the end of the day, Mark-1's office, Mark-1's business phone, and Mark's personal cell had received over 1,000 phone calls from around the nation," Oberholzer's lawyer wrote in the lawsuit.

Obviously, it's not in the good peoples' best interest to question the possibility that in all likelihood, this guy, a plumber from Texas, isn't actually sponsoring terrorists.

"These phone calls were in large part harassing and contained countless threats of violence, property harm, injury and even death."





IDENTICAL TWINS WHO SHARE BOYFRIEND VOW TO GET PREGNANT AT THE SAME TIME

EVER wondered why, as a society, we're more than happy to disregard the notion of incest when it comes to bedding two sisters at once? Yep, apparently we're ok with that, because they're sisters, man!

These identical twins are sisters who share more than just looks. They've shelled out over \$250,000 on cosmetic enhancements to look even more identical - from breast implants (really? we didn't notice), to lip fillers and fake eyebrows. The twins say that there is no such thing as too close. Cute.

And now, as if to prove their point, they've vowed to get pregnant at the same time and have children together, because their 'bodies need to be the same.

'We would have to be exactly the same - even if we went through IVF at the same time', they said. 'If she walks a few metres, I need to walk a few metres because we have to burn the same

calories,' (yeah we get it).

If you've been paying attention, you should be asking something like, 'well, if they're getting pregnant at the same time, whose doing the impregnating?' Great question, we're glad you asked. The most likely candidate is their current boyfriend, yes, they share boyfriend too! Cute, right?

Meet electrical mechanic Ben Byrne, 32, whom the girls have been dating for four years. 'It's my first time with two girlfriends, and to be honest, it's very difficult because it has to be 100 per cent even,' Mr Byrne was reported saying.

'Whatever I do for one I have to do for the other, so it's a fine balance. My mates reckon it's a cool problem to have.' No doubt they do.

So how does one guy keep up with two girls in the bedroom?

'Put it this way, we're very active girls and he needs twice the energy,' said Lucy.

REDFOO'S ALBUM SELLS 144 COPIES IN 1ST WEEK

IT'S the biggest week of press Redfoo has had in ages, but for all the wrong reasons. His latest album *Party Rock Mansion* (which must be as bad as it sounds), sold just 144 copies in its first week.

Poor guy, we almost feel sorry for him. Almost. Up until his latest drop, Redfoo counted Australia as one of his most successful territories. He was a judge on *X-Factor* before getting booted and enjoyed a little bit of B-grade celeb status for a while at clubs around the country.

His latest album marks his first solo release and probably a slap in the face by the cruel hand of reality. But hey, who hasn't felt that? At least, the guy is having a go.



COMPULSIVE HOARDER CRUSHED TO DEATH UNDER HUGE TRASH PILE

A man who suffered from a condition that causes compulsive hoarding has been found dead, crushed under a pile of garbage in his home.

Police in Vigo, Galicia, received a call from a concerned woman who had not heard from her friend in over 6 days. They usually communicate over Whatsapp and Facebook, however, he had not appeared on either.

The 51-year-old male is said to suffer from Diogenes syndrome, also known as senile squalor syndrome, a disorder characterized by extreme self-neglect, domestic squalor, lack of shame and compulsive hoarding of garbage.

When police arrived at the home, they were confronted with what looked to be a garbage dump - piles of garbage, squalor and mess everywhere, but no evidence of anyone living there- "it was something out of the ordinary," officers told the local newspaper. After some careful navigating, the man was found crushed under a pile of garbage, his body was wedged between a one-metre deep heap of trash and a door to the house.

A high-angle, black and white aerial photograph of Midtown New York City. The image shows a dense cluster of skyscrapers and buildings, with the Empire State Building prominently visible on the left side. The perspective is from a high vantage point, looking down into the city.

GET THE PICTURE

“STANDING 86 floors above midtown New York really puts into perspective how micro I am in comparison” says Charlie Hardy, our feature photographer for this month’s Get The Picture. “The more I looked down from the Empire State Building the more I felt like I was looking into a Where’s Wally book. I had never been to a landscape where it was so full and dense, with so many big things crammed into one space. Being there in person, you just feel so miniature”.

Credit: (Charlie Hardy)



oldmag.net

CRUSH

GAL GADOT

Originating in Rosh HaAyin, Israel, and destined to study law, Gal Gadot probably didn't envision becoming Wonder Woman.

Now she stands tall and mighty as the ultimate heroine, a warrior princess of the Amazons, the goddess responsible for bringing the Justice League together.

Just don't get on her bad side, her arsenal of weapons will quite literally whip you into shape. Be it the Lasso of Truth, her indestructible bracelets, or projectile firing tiara, Gal Gadot is one superhuman woman you don't want to mess with. And that, paired with superhuman beauty, is why she just has to be this month's Crush. 

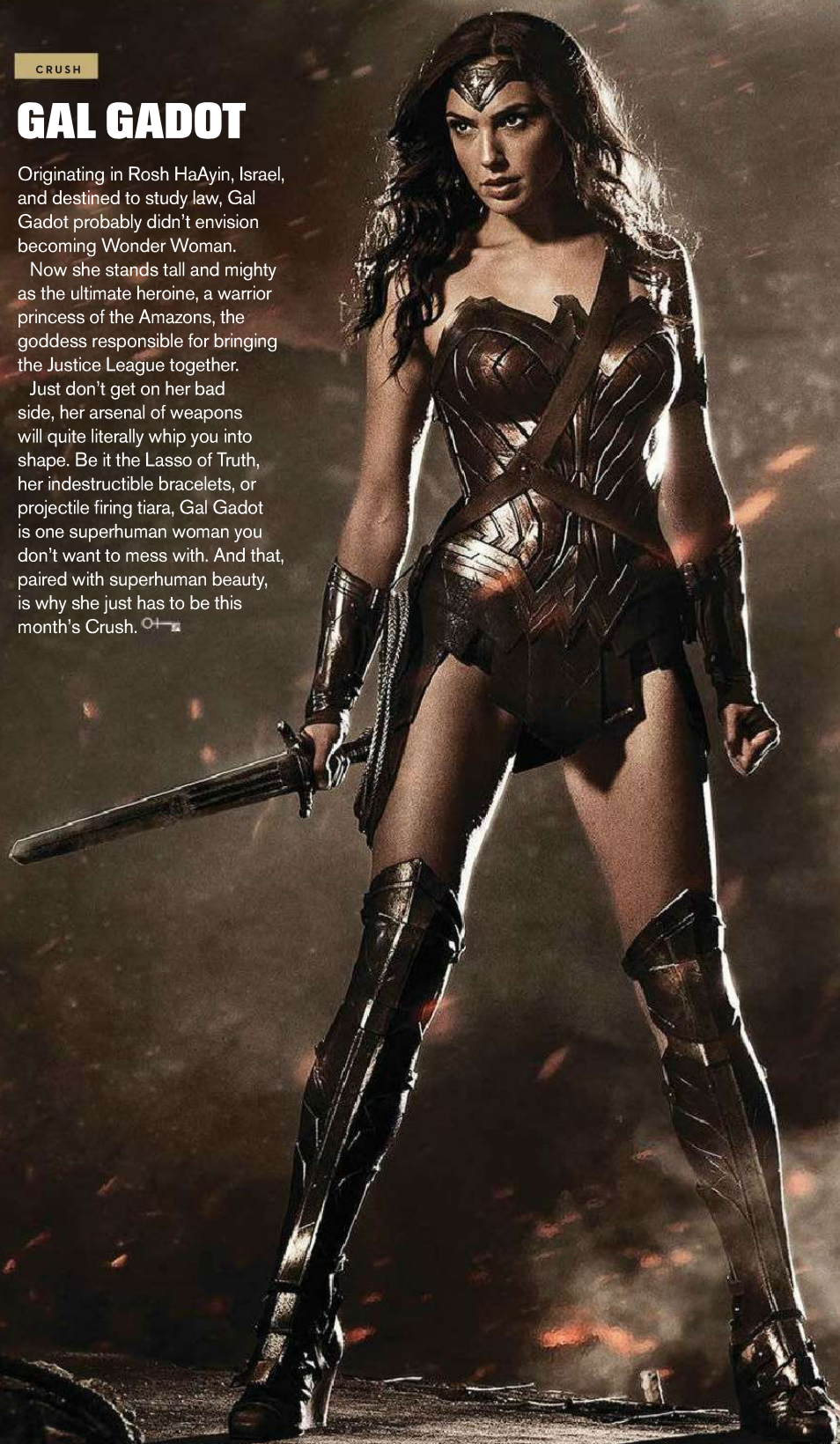


PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES/TM & (C) DC COMICS

DOOM



FIGHT LIKE HELL

13TH MAY 2016



DOOM.COM

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XBOX ONE

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Bethesda



SPY VS SPY

MEET THE MAN IN CHARGE OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ON EARTH.

THE director of the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command is kind of like the cool dad of national security. His approach is lax; he's personable, a little cringe worthy and possibly even likable. Then you remember that he heads the world's biggest spy organisation, that is now, at this very moment, probably collecting data on your activities.

Hand picked by Barack Obama and personally vetted by the NSA, Rogers' rise through the ranks of the Navy, which began after an entirely modest academic career, has been swift and calculated – Rogers was destined to lead. What he may lack in academic ability, he more than makes up for in sheer willingness to lead and shrewd analytical adeptness.

Rogers' initiation into the NSA in 2013 was a baptism of fire. The agency had just come under attack for its surveillance operations, which included the secretive working relationships between the NSA and the nation's telecommunications and high technology organisations.

The NSA has been shrouded in mystery since it was established back in 1952. However, recent revelations by whistle-blower Edward Snowden about the NSA were explosive and shed light on the organisation's inner workings.

They confirmed what we kind of already knew – the NSA was spying on everybody: foreign leaders, American citizens, telecommunication organisations - you name it. Meanwhile, they were lying to everyone about it. The NSA was quickly becoming something you might read about in Orwell's 1984; a detached, dystopian bureaucracy, situated behind closed doors, surrounded by high, impenetrable walls. An organisation that would take matters into its own hands, no matter the cost. The public was quickly losing

TO TRUST OR NOT TO TRUST?

A few years ago the Snowden files hit, the fallout was severe. Here are the top five scandals ignited by NSA spying.

MERKEL PHONE CALLS

It was revealed that the NSA had been eavesdropping on German chancellor Angela Merkel. Later, it was revealed that they had been monitoring the phones of 35 world leaders.

ARE YOU 'CHINA' SPY ON ME?

The U.S. loves accusing the Chinese of spying on them, so when it was revealed that the U.S. had been spying on the country's top leaders, but also telecom giant Huawei, well, no one was surprised.

GET OFF YOUR DAMN PHONE!

In January 2014 it was revealed that the U.S. had collected and stored almost 200 million text messages per day across the globe. The NSA program was said to be collecting location information, contacts and financial data.

PRISM

The top secret data mining program gave the U.S. government access to a vast quantity of emails, chat logs, and other data directly from the servers of nine internet companies including Google, Facebook, Microsoft and Apple.

THE BRAZIL FILES

It was revealed that the U.S. had been spying on Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff, as well as the country's citizens, and its strategic industries.

trust and rightfully so, the NSA were entirely unaccountable. All was not well within America's biggest security agency, they were in damage control.

Then, out of the shadows, steps Rogers, who with cool calmness, downplayed the significance of Snowden's leaks, even admitting that Snowden probably wasn't paid off by a foreign government. The agency had just come under attack for its surveillance operations, yet he was obstinate and unapologetic about the agency's past activities. Instead, he insisted on looking forward.

A specialist in cryptology and cyber warfare, Rogers is the first career cryptanalyst to hold the position of Director at the NSA and Commander at USCYBERCOM. He imagines a future where the United States might use cyber weapons against enemies, much in the same way that cruise missiles and drones are used today in the Middle East.

The man is our first line of defence when warfare is taken into deep, dark, digital territories – a reality that will likely occur sooner rather than later.

Thus far, Rogers appears to be reasonable, analytical and calculated. His willingness to at least engage the public on matters of the NSA's activities is a welcome change from the NSA we've known in the past. Whether it's all an elaborate ruse, or Rogers is genuinely willing to compromise and engage in open debate is yet to be seen.

Rogers walks a tight rope - on one side stands the American people, their freedoms, liberties and autonomy. On the other: the government, the NSA and other security agencies vying for access to those very liberties we hold so dear. Below him, rushing cascades threatening to dislodge this delicate balancing act. How will one of Earth's most powerful men navigate this precarious situation? 



FILM

DC'S DWINDLING CINEMATIC UNIVERSE

IT IS still utterly bewildering how the delivery of *Batman v Superman* last March turned out to be one of the greatest botches in Hollywood filmmaking to hit the silver screen. Although the film achieved some financial success – breaking weekend box office records for a March release – it was both a critical flop and a rude awakening for diehard fans. For a venture representing an unparalleled impact on the future of comic-book adaptation, it is simply unfathomable how the creative team behind the film (working for roughly 2 years with a budget of \$250 million) produced such an ill-begotten travesty. Like Ang Lee's *Hulk* back in 2003, *BvS* showed enormous elements of potential in its cinematic tone and thematic direction, but it just devolved into an ugly, confused train wreck.

In 2007, Warner Bros. had planned to release a 'Justice League' film with George Miller directing. However, when the American writer's strike took off and Christopher Nolan's release of *The Dark Knight* secured an immeasurable success, business became complicated and eventually the project was cancelled. Fast-forward almost 10 years later with the harrowing mess of *BvS*, it now seems a shame that George Miller's vision – a film-maker with a head on his shoulders – never saw the light of day. Instead, we got Zach Snyder: a director with a brief history in major film production but a long history in making ads and commercials – and doesn't it show. He knows how to get you excited. The hype Snyder is able to

generate through his pristine trailers is truly something to behold. He is the master of promoting superhero films, but the Tommy Wiseau of executing them.

The release of *Suicide Squad* in 2 months will be the definitive sign of what chances there are for DC to viably launch their cinematic universe, providing a more serious alternative to the cartoony and childlike style of the beloved Marvel movies. It'll be our first dose of Jared Leto's incarnation of the Joker since Heath

or whether it's simply beyond repair.

As a forerunner to *BvS*, Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight* Trilogy had tapped into an aspect of comic book narrative that had been widely overlooked in cinema. Nolan forced us to take the mythos of Batman seriously. Going beyond the sheer high-concept entertainment that typifies the Marvel cinematic universe, the *TDK* trilogy honed in on a real depth and complexity to these tales in a world we could almost imagine ourselves in. For

IT'LL BE OUR FIRST DOSE OF JAROD LETO'S INCARNATION OF THE JOKER SINCE HEATH LEDGER'S FAULTLESS PERFORMANCE, MEANING THERE ARE GARGANTUAN SHOES TO FILL

Ledger's faultless performance, meaning there are gargantuan shoes to fill. Next year will also see the inception of Wonder Woman's first solo film in a long time, which could be interesting coming from Patty Jenkins (director of the Oscar-winning *Monster*). What's more, the weakest link in *BvS* - screenwriter David S. Goyer - doesn't seem to have much of a presence in the forthcoming *Justice League: Part 1*. This time round, Chris Terrio alone has been penning the script and rumours have it that George Miller is even attached as producer, so there may be still a glimmer of hope for DC. Honestly, though, who even knows anymore? At this stage, it's difficult to tell if the DC cinematic universe can be rescued

once, in a word, we saw substance in a comic book adaptation.

The release of *Batman V Superman* this year was an opportunity for the studios to renew that wonderful balance between the spectacle we've come to expect from the superhero genre and the kind of storytelling that actually means something to us as an audience. There was a vast world of allegory to be found in bringing together these two diametrically opposed archetypes; a chance to show again what superhero stories really could be like. Thanks to Zach Snyder, there is at least one thing we can know for certain about the upcoming *Justice League* movies: the trailers are going to be incredible. 



MUSIC

WHEN DOVES CRY

FANS and musical contemporaries reacted with great surprise and sadness upon the death of legendary artist Prince on April 21 at the early age of 57. An incalculably influential and popular musician, he'd maintained a prolific output right until the end: releasing four albums within the last three years of his life.

Prince Rogers Nelson died at his Paisley Park home outside Minneapolis, which served as his recording studio, after weeks of struggling with the flu. Only six days before his death, his private plane made an emergency landing while returning from shows in Atlanta. Reports said he was suffering from dehydration.

Prince soon addressed concerns, saying "Wait a few days before you waste any prayers." After recovering he made a surprise performance at a local block party, bought a purple grand piano and was sighted riding a bicycle around his neighbourhood.

Prince was the formative soundtrack for millions around the world through the '80s and '90s. The flamboyant, effete and colourful performer let everyone know it was more than fine to wear blouses, glittering scarves and broad hats.

Leading R&B artist Frank Ocean wrote online within hours of his passing: "He was a straight black man who played his first televised set in bikini bottoms and knee high heeled boots, epic. He made me feel more comfortable with how I identify sexually simply by his display of freedom from and irreverence for obviously archaic ideas like gender conformity."

Purple Rain in 1984 is best known among an output of 39 studio albums.

HE HAD A TUMULTUOUS HISTORY WITH RECORD COMPANIES, RAILING AGAINST ANY PERCEIVED EXPLOITATION OF HIS ARTISTRY

His visual image upon the birth of music videos and MTV helped to make him one of the world's most exciting pop stars. His combined talents as a songwriter, vocalist, guitarist, producer and performer were at an incredibly rare level.

He had a tumultuous history with record companies, railing against any perceived exploitation of his artistry. Online streaming services were anathema to the artist who performed with "Slave" written on his face in the early '90s and changed his name to a Symbol, leaving the world to refer to him as "The artist formerly known as Prince."

Justin Timberlake's reaction told of a common childhood memory. "It was Raspberry Beret. I was 4 years old. Yes, 4. I remember that I instantly loved it. 'Mommy, who is that singing?' Seems weird but it's true."

President Obama and/or his speechwriters also gave a statement that was surprisingly on point: "Today, the world lost a creative icon ... As one of the most gifted and prolific musicians of our time, Prince did it all. Funk. R&B. Rock and roll. He was a virtuoso instrumentalist, a brilliant bandleader, and an electrifying performer."

Fans responded with celebrations of his life and music all over the world. His friend director Spike Lee threw a block party in Brooklyn, and similar scenes were repeated everywhere. In a 2016 that's claimed cultural heroes like David Bowie, Phife Dawg and now Prince, our shared rituals of grief crystallize brilliant legacies for our most beloved stars. 



>> DOOM

GAMING

SWITCH OFF, GAME ON!

NOTHING gets us excited like a six-pack of beer, a console, good mates and a night in. No fanfare, no drama, just good ol' fashion running and gunning. Sure, we love partying, but sometimes it just doesn't beat sinking deep into the couch, ordering pizza, and talking epic amounts of shit while you trash your friends on your game of choice. Chicks go to the bathroom together, guys game together - it's one of those things that you can't explain but just makes sense. And you know what, not everything needs to make sense, so next time your mate questions why you're sitting at home and gaming, 'instead of going out and getting loose', say something like; 'because, Mario and Luigi, offer me satisfaction that you, or a nightclub, never will'. That'll be sure to confuse him, and ensure that he doesn't ask any more stupid questions, in fact, you might not ever see him again, perfect! So, without further ado, let's get down to business with the games that have got us all excited. Here we go...

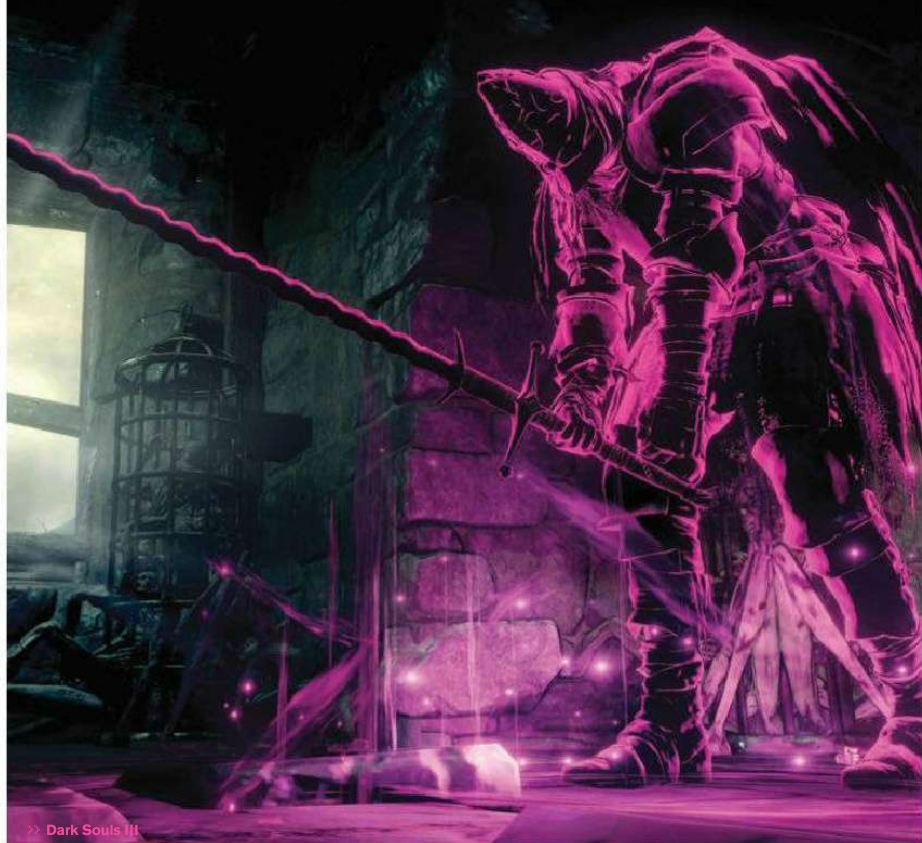
>> Tom Clancy's Division

If you're looking for an RPG / tactical based shooter, (opposed to a twitch shooter like Call of Duty or Counter Strike), that is entertaining and cohesive, with some great multiplayer, co-op, or single play options, then Tom Clancy's Division is for you. It's set in post pandemic New York where society has collapsed into chaos, and you and your tactical team 'Division', are in charge of saving the day. In order to do so, you will need to loot gear, explore, team up with other players, customise your character and level up your weapons, all whilst surviving against deadly enemies. Sounds easy right? It isn't.

Release: Available now

>> Dark Souls III

Hidetaka Miyazaki's final Masterpiece, and the latest chapter in the Dark Souls series. It evolves the basics and mechanics of the Souls saga and offers brilliant level design,



>> Dark Souls III

THINK TERRIFYING ENEMIES, INTRICATE ENVIRONMENTS AND GRATUITOUS GORE SET IN THE WASTELANDS OF HELL



>> Tom Clancy's Division

more variety of enemies, deep character customisation, and some of the most epic boss battles we've seen in the last 7 years of the Souls saga. Its super addictive RPG gameplay will challenge you as you die again, and again searching for a way to survive the oncoming apocalypse. The combat is great, and Dark Souls fans can rejoice in the signature rendering of the series style.

Release: April 12

>> DOOM

From the depths of hell itself, comes the release which has all of us quivering with excitement (or is it fear?). Developed by id software, the studio that pioneered the first-person shooter genre and created multiplayer deathmatch, comes DOOM. Think terrifying enemies, intricate environments and gratuitous gore set in the wastelands of hell. The sweat inducing first person combat will have you obliterating relentless demon hordes with impossibly destructive guns - alternatively you can fight like hell against your mates in numerous multiplayer modes which will have you gripping the controller way too hard whilst yelling expletives. No matter which way you choose to play, the release of DOOM is undeniably exciting and marks a monumental occasion for the gaming world. ☪

Release: May 13

HACKING THE MAIN-FRAME

THIS should not be a surprise, but the business of getting behind the online security protocols of large organisations is nothing like what is depicted in the 2001 crime flick *Swordfish*. For one thing, there is far less gratuitous nudity.

I know, I was disappointed too.

Nonetheless, although it might not have the sex appeal of other types of crime, cybercrime is a real and growing threat. Deep as we are in the (so far hugely underwhelming) "internet of things", we have invested a great deal of our information in external databases: banks, government organisations, online retailers, social media.

In a lot of cases, we have no choice but to trust the security protocols in place. Indeed, in some cases you have no choice; if you need to register with the Department of Human Services (in order to correlate your Medicare and tax records, for instance), there is no option but to use the online service.

Unfortunately however, as last year indicated, no database is immune from being breached...

LastPass

LastPass, for the uninitiated, is a service for people (like me) who can't remember their passwords for the life of them. It is a secure, massively encrypted vault for all of your passwords, unlockable only by a single master password in the possession of the account holder.

Sounds like it would be an excellent service to hack, right? Well, last year, LastPass discovered that I'm not the only person who thinks that. Cyber criminals made off with huge numbers of email addresses, passwords (albeit hashed and salted), and secret questions. LastPass has been a little cagey on the details of how much data was stolen, but they went to the effort of notifying every one of their millions of users about the breach.

Even assuming that the hackers can only bypass a small percentage of stolen

WE HAVE INVESTED A GREAT DEAL OF OUR INFORMATION IN EXTERNAL DATABASES: BANKS, GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS, ONLINE RETAILERS, SOCIAL MEDIA

accounts, the theft no doubt proved extremely profitable for the black hats responsible.

Kaspersky Lab

So, some people had their Facebook details stolen. Big deal, right? Well, this one will make your skin crawl.

Another group of hackers, believed to have been behind the Stuxnet and Duqu worms, compromised the servers of Kaspersky Lab, an antivirus firm based out of Moscow. Unlike LastPass, this breach was a big deal for international politics and espionage.

For one thing, Stuxnet and Duqu are both likely the products of US and Israeli military labs, and were used against military targets in the Middle East. However, foiled by Kaspersky in the past, the new worm—called Duqu 2.0—wasn't just trying to work out which countries Kaspersky Lab

were investigating, but were also trying to find out the methods by which Duqu and Stuxnet were detected.

The amount of data compromised before the leak was detected is unknown. However, what was stolen has the serious potential to compromise the national security of Australia and its allies.

Hacking Team

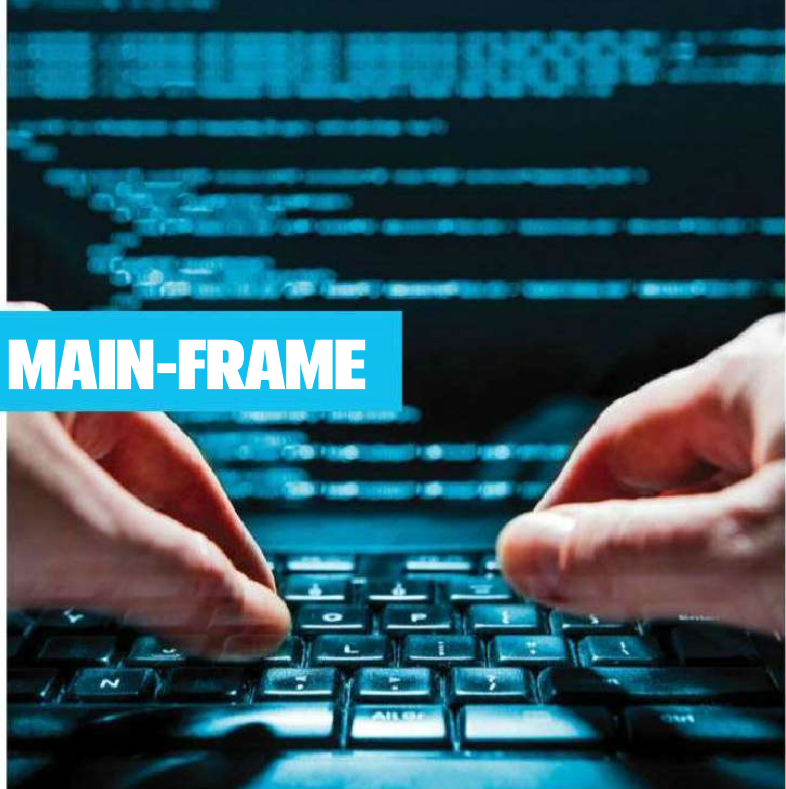
Finally, some (potentially) good news. Last year, a group of online activists accessed and dumped over 400 gigabytes of data held by Italian IT firm Hacking Team: a company specialising in surveillance software.

Having someone steal your LastPass information might feel invasive, but that's small beer compared to the power afforded to governments by Hacking Team's software.

It can be used to decrypt emails, record Skype and VoIP calls, and remotely activate computer cameras and microphones. The software is subsequently sold to intelligence and police agencies worldwide, including oppressive regimes; it is reported that Hacking Team's software has been used to track journalists and activists in Morocco and the UAE, among other places.

Unlike in the cases of the LastPass and Kaspersky leaks, it looks as if the Hacking Team hackers were doing punters a favour.

It's always a good idea to force governments to be honest about surveilling their own citizens. 



Dita Van Teese

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MC MURRAY HILL

TOGETHER WITH AN

*All Star
Cast*



Big Top Luna Park

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JUNE 4-5

Tivoli

BRISBANE

JUNE 7-8

The Forum

MELBOURNE

JUNE 10-11

Cabaret Festival

ADELAIDE

JUNE 13

Astoria

PERTH

JUNE 17-18

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BUSTED

WOLF OF WANKER STREET

IN A hilariously sad case of life imitating art, it has been alleged that a sizeable portion of the money used to bankroll "The Wolf of Wall Street" came from a Malaysian government fund. In the wake of the Panama Papers revealing just how scummy the rich and famous actually are, the news that funding for the DiCaprio film, which ironically is about corrupt business and dirty deals, is possibly linked to a Malaysian development fund 1MDB, is at once appalling and completely unsurprising. The fund, which one can only assume was created to help develop the infrastructure and services of Malaysia, was set up by the Prime Minister's son with the help of Goldman Sachs' regional chairman, Tim Leissner.

It is alleged that the money was funnelled from 1MDB into Red Granite Capital, a production company co-owned by the son of Malaysian Prime Minister, Najib Razak. The fund is also linked to another interesting 'character' - Low Taek Jho - a notorious 'party boy' who goes by the obnoxious moniker 'Jho Low'.

It is reported that Red Granite did

not waste any time putting their totally legitimate funding to good use; apparently spending \$600,000 on a birthday present for Leonardo DiCaprio after just three months of shooting. The gift was Marlon Brando's Oscar, awarded to him for his role in the film "On the Waterfront".

I'm not sure, but that almost seems vaguely insulting. Of course, it is a huge,

jumping on a private jet and flying to Vegas to celebrate the New Year all over again.

Whilst this does sound pretty awesome, wasn't Leonardo DiCaprio recently harping on about the environment, shared responsibility and all that stuff about world leaders being more responsible? To be fair, it sounds a little bit preachy, Leo.

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2012, THE PAIR PARTIED IN AUSTRALIA WITH LEO, JONAH HILL AND JAMIE FOXX, BEFORE JUMPING ON A PRIVATE JET AND FLYING TO VEGAS TO CELEBRATE ALL OVER AGAIN

stupid, waste of money - but, it's almost like the insinuation is: 'oh well, if you can't win your own one, we can always buy one for you'.

Stupid gifts aside, the party boys apparently spent quite a bit of time with Leo during and after the production of the "Wolf of Wall Street". On New Year's Eve 2012, the pair partied in Australia with Leo, Jonah Hill and Jamie Foxx, before

At any rate, the FBI have now become involved and are probing transactions related to the 1MDB fund, including those related to the bankrolling of "Wolf of Wall Street". It's not known where "Jho Low" is at the moment, however much of the art he bought over the last couple of years is coming up for auction again. Similarly the Goldman Sachs' regional director has taken a leave of absence. ➔

POLITICS

NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO BE A BOOMER!

ON THE night Malcom Turnbull finally clawed his way back from the political abyss, the newly minted Liberal leader fronted the media in an ebullient mood.

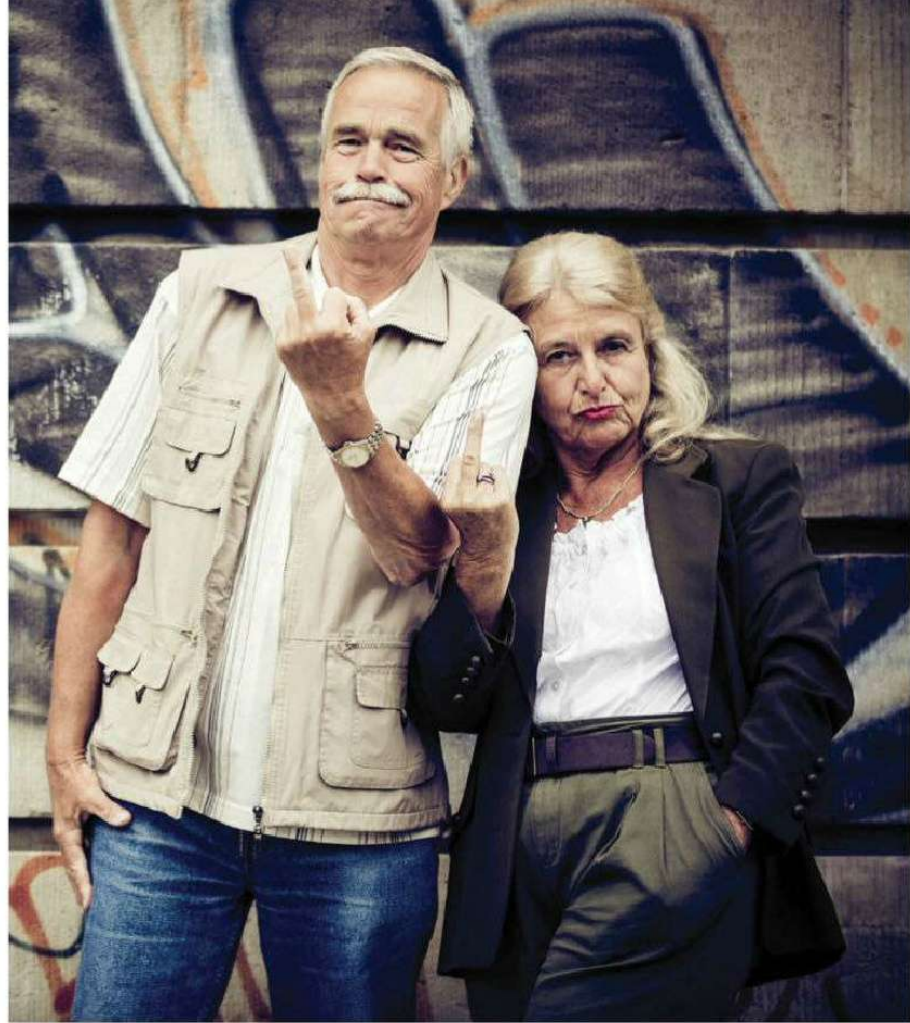
"There has never been a more exciting time to be alive than today and there has never been a more exciting time to be an Australian," he beamed.

For an appallingly wealthy 61-year-old in possession of a \$50-million Point Piper mansion who has just massacred their longstanding rival and grasped the Prime Ministership, that may well be true. But for many on the other side of politics the sentiment will have struck as nothing short of fantastical.

It's a fantasy young Australians see contradicted all around them. They see it busted among in the swelling ranks packed into open-house inspections across Sydney and Melbourne each week, where would-be tenants clamber over any property that could even glibly be described as affordable. They see exposed in the frustrations of under 30s struggling to find secure long-term employment, or earning \$10 an hour to 'work for the dole', a program the government's own review found does virtually nothing to boost employment. And they see its boldfaced absurdity reflected by their own helplessness to shift a stubborn parliament that refuses to halt the heating of the planet or let their queer friends get married.

The Prime Minister's merry sentiments were not entirely off, but he skipped the necessary caveat: there's never been a better time to be a Boomer.

As the generation born between 1946 and 1965 settle into their retirement, the



BOOMERS AREN'T JUST GETTING RICH LOCKING MILLENNIALS OUT OF THE HOUSING MARKET, THEY'RE HELPING TO BUST THE COUNTRY'S BUDGET IN THE PROCESS

demographic insurgency they waged reaches its climax. While the going was good they bought investment properties, burnt a lot of carbon, had government resources poured into their education and welfare, and could reasonably expect to live a better life than their parents did.

But now, they're not paying their share.

As a startling 2014 Grattan Report noted, the wealth of those in older age brackets in Australia is rising steadily, while 25 to 34 year-olds are worse off than those who were the same age eight years earlier. This, the report dramatically

concludes, has accompanied a structural shift whereby the resources needed to support those leaving the workforce throws the entire budget off balance.

As government funds flow into aged care, health, and pensions, they're sucked out of other services. The Coalition's cuts to university funding are a prime example, as is the tightening support for welfare assisting young job-seekers. Meanwhile, the tax system advantages those who have already acquired wealth, allowing exemptions on superannuation and for those investing in property.

Boomers aren't just getting rich locking millennials out of the housing market, they're helping to bust the country's budget in the process.

Behind many of the policy areas shaping up as key to the 2016 election – super reform, negative gearing, education spending, renewable energy, LGBTI rights – a bigger question is haunting Australian politics. Is the government content to let the next generation endure a lower quality of life than the one that came before it? 



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IN FOCUS



EVERYDAY BEAUTY

LARSEN SOTELO'S WORK IS RAW
AND INSTINCTUAL, CAPTURING
BEAUTY WITH THE MOMENT



IF YOU'VE used the internet in the last five years, you've probably seen an image by Larsen Sotelo. Single-handedly populating pinterest boards everywhere, Larsen's work is raw and unyielding. It's no surprise that he's becoming one of the most sought after photographers in LA's Art and Fashion industry.

Larsen, a purist at heart who shoots predominately with analogue, has rejected any formal training and structure, instead choosing to shoot from the hip and in turn seek his own style. His style is unique, his goal to know and share experiences with his subjects that no one else has, and then portray that moment in his photography. When it comes to photography, a camera is just an object; its all

in the head. When he shoots, his actions are instinctual. He doesn't think; he just does.

With a portfolio that includes the likes of Paco Rabanne, Jefferey Campbell, Casamigos, Caliche, Taio Cruz, and Stampd LA to magazine debuts in Vice, Juxtapoz, Nylon, Popular, Monster Children, P Magazine and many more, the fashion and art world has only caught a mere glimpse of Larsen's vision. He's planning to further challenge the frontiers of his craft, setting to expand on his gallery collections and experiences. With book publications scheduled in the very near future, this is just the beginning for Larsen.

Watch this visual space. 









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ALEXANDER THE GREAT

**PENTHOUSE SPOKE WITH ALEXANDER
SKARSGARD ABOUT DARK MOODS, ANIMAL
INSTINCT, GETTING SHREDDED, AND
TARZAN'S TRUE NATURE AS HE RETURNS TO
THE JUNGLE TO FACE HIS SAVAGE SELF**

ONE of the hottest vampires on earth - sorry Robert Pattinson - actor Alexander Skarsgård is about to become one of Hollywood's hottest properties. His new film, *The Legend of Tarzan*, the latest screen adaptation of the legendary Edgar Rice Burroughs tale, takes a deeper and possibly darker look at the "lord of the jungle" who enters civilized society only to return to his native habitat. The 6'4" Swede spent several months training to get the kind of lean yet ripped look that will undoubtedly have female audiences in particular swooning over him come the film's summer release date.

Directed by British filmmaker David Yates (*Harry Potter*) and co-starring Margot Robbie as the iconic Jane, the \$180 million retelling of *Tarzan* marks Skarsgård's first big studio feature since *Battleship* (2012). Of late, he has preferred to work in smaller, indie projects including *The Diary of a Teenage Girl*, *The East*, *Disconnect*, and *Melancholia*. Nonetheless, he sees the story as a very personal kind of journey despite being framed by a larger canvas.

"Blockbuster movies are often about massive sets, explosions, and lots of special effects, but this film is about the animal instincts that lie deep within us," Skarsgård says. "(*Tarzan*) has spent a decade adapting to western society where he was forced to repress his darker, more savage nature. Then he returns to the jungle and everything he has been holding back is unleashed...I can promise that there will be a lot of action in the jungle!"

Skarsgård is the son of distinguished actor Stellan Skarsgård (*Ronin*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Angels & Demons*) and by the age of 13 was already a teen idol after appearing in a variety of Swedish productions. But the impact of celebrity on his personal life - "photographers would be camped outside our house" - led him to turn his back on acting and he went on to train in the Swedish army as an anti-terrorist soldier.





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:
With Samuel L. Jackson in
the upcoming *The Legend
of Tarzan*, playing a bad cop
in independent film *War On
Everything*; and as vampire Eric
Northman on the HBO series
True Blood



Alexander so enjoyed the gruelling training regime of his military days that he has maintained his six-pack abs ever since. In preparation for his Tarzan role, he underwent an even more intensive training regime to get into ultimate loincloth-worthy shape.

David Yates, the director of *The Legend of Tarzan*, recently revealed that co-star Margot Robbie (Jane) gave Skarsgard more than he bargained for during a sex scene: "I said to her, 'Just slap Alex while you're making love, just kind of give him a punch.' It was sort of an earthy, sensual moment of her enjoying sex with Alex, and the only bruise he picked up during the entire shoot was probably that punch from Margot. Which says a lot about her feistiness."

After residing in L.A. for a decade, Skarsgard moved to New York nearly eighteen months ago where he lives in New York with his girlfriend of the past few years, actress Alexa Chung. He has also been promoting his upcoming film *The War on Everyone* in which he plays a corrupt New Mexico police detective, at the Berlin International Film Festival in February and at the SXSW Festival in Austin, Texas, in March.

In conversation, Skarsgard is cheery, down-to-earth, and eminently polite.

Alexander, how does it feel to be living in New York these days?

New York is more exciting and there's a lot of energy to the city. Every day that you walk outside you can feel the culture and activity that's going on. In Los Angeles, you're forced to drive everywhere because the city is so spread out. In New York, you never really have to plan anything because you can always find something interesting to do on the spur of the moment.

You've done a lot of indie projects of late and now you're doing *The Legend of Tarzan*.

We spent most of the time shooting on a massive set (in Watford). It was a very interesting but exhausting experience when you're working on one project for eight months. It was sometimes stressful because often I needed to be in darker kind of mood but overall it was an amazing project to be part of. I loved doing it.

This story reverses the usual telling of the Tarzan legend?

Yes. Normally you see how Tarzan grew up in the jungle and then he goes to

London and winds up living on an estate where he is "civilized." In our movie we start with him as Lord Greystoke, a very sophisticated Victorian gentleman living with Jane and having afternoon tea with the Prime Minister.

Then we see him return to the Congo and the layers peel off like an onion and he finds himself reverting to his true nature. That's the kind of transformation and the contradictions between our civilized selves and our darker inner nature that I really loved exploring. Instead of showing how the more savage beast of a man becomes civilized we show how the civilized man returns to his more savage, primal self.

What do you look for in your work? You seem to enjoy mixing things up?

I played the same character in *True Blood* for seven years and after the series was over I was really determined to play as many different kinds of characters as I could find. I love finding projects which are going to excite me and make me feel like I'm discovering something new and forced to explore different psychological aspects to each role.

I don't just want to act because it's my job - I want to really enjoy myself and be as creatively inspired as I can. That's

Working on a smaller scale on those films also brings you very close to your cast and crew members. It's like being in a big family where you're all striving for the same thing and pouring your heart and soul into your work. In the end, though, the size of the budget doesn't matter. I live for the opportunity to work with talented people and tell interesting stories.

Apart from Tarzan, audiences will be seeing you in a very different kind of film, *The War on Everyone*?

I jumped at the chance to work on it because after spending eight months on *Tarzan*, which was a very draining and intense shoot, I was able to be part of this wild story and play a very over-the-top character. It was exactly what I needed and I had so much fun with Michael (co-star Peña) playing these two crazy dudes who are running Albuquerque (New Mexico) drinking heavily, snorting coke, and chasing criminals. It's a very funny and wild story, very politically incorrect.

How do you like to relax when you're not working on a film set?

I like travelling. I like going to places like Iceland or sailing across the Atlantic or visiting my family and friends in Sweden. I try to take advantage of breaks between films to keep on the move.

"I DON'T JUST WANT TO ACT BECAUSE IT'S MY JOB - I WANT TO REALLY ENJOY MYSELF AND BE AS CREATIVELY INSPIRED AS I CAN."

what I truly love the most about acting. I don't like playing it safe or playing slightly different versions of Alexander Skarsgard. What's the point of that? The joy and excitement of acting comes from inhabited other characters who are darker, different, or behave and act very differently from how I would.

Did you ever get advice from agents or friends about working on too many low-budget projects?

I didn't care about the money. *True Blood* gave me the financial freedom to be able to work on films that I really cared about and made me very happy to be part of. On some of the (indie films) I worked for next to nothing but it was so artistically satisfying to play really complex and distinct characters.

Your father is also a very important presence in your life?

My dad is a good friend as much as he is a father to me. We've always had a very good relationship and I'm so proud of that because so often you speak to people who have had difficult or unhappy experiences with their parents and just can't get along. I'm very lucky to have a dad who is such a cool, interesting, and just great guy to be around. I've gotten even closer to him as I've gotten older because when I was a teenager he was often working a lot in the theatre in Stockholm and I really missed being around him. It's been really important to me to be able to have this wonderful, close connection to him now. I admire and respect him and love him so much. ☺+■



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INNOVATIVE AUTOMOTIVE ON THE PLANET
BY STEVE FREETH

THE NEW SUPER▷ POWERS



If the recent Geneva Auto Show is anything to go by, technology is fast transforming cars into science fiction with extreme takes on speed, design and power that are already making driving a futuristic experience. Using terms like 'super' or 'mega', top end companies such as Bugatti, Porsche, Lamborghini and Ferrari, amongst others, all launched models and prototypes that looked like they had just raced out of a Marvel comic. But they're not the only ones re-imagining our rides, as the next generation of jets, speedboats and yachts push the limits on performance, luxury and needless to say, sticker price.

PHOTOS: BUGATTI MEDIA LOUNGE



▷ BUGATTI CHIRON

The Bugatti Chiron was the Geneva sensation and not just for its \$2.5M price tag. Seemingly styled inside and out by aliens, Bugatti claims the 1500-hp, quad-turbocharged 16-cylinder 'hypercar' has a top speed of over 400kph to make it the world's "most powerful, fastest and most luxurious super sports car".

▷ LAMBORGHINI CENTENARIO LP 770-4

The Lamborghini Centenario LP 770-4 was another Geneva hit and is being billed as the company's most powerful ever built and most expensive at nearly \$2M. All aerodynamic angles and scoops, the 'supercar' blurs from zero to 99kph in 2.8 seconds on a 770 hp V-12 engine that can hit 350kph at full throttle.



▷ THE NEW SUPERPOWERS



▷ ASTON MARTIN'S AM37S SPEEDBOAT

A smart detour for the luxury car company, the AM37S blends high tech engineering for unprecedented power and speed. With a stunning, sleek epoxy resin, chrome and leather design married to IQ like voice control, HD touchscreen navigation and multimedia, it's tailor made for the James Bond in you.



▷ AERION AS2 SUPERSONIC JET

An Aerion AS2 Supersonic Jet can cost over a \$100M, but the 15 metre long plane can carry up to 12 passengers in exceptional luxury at speeds of Mach 1.5 or 1500kph. Luckily, fractional jet ownership company, Flexjet, now has a fleet of them if you need a superfast getaway.

▷ PEUGEOT CITROËN'S E-TENSE

All electric, the two-seater concept coupe looks otherworldly with its 3d printed grill, carbonfibre monocoque chassis and embedded rear camera to replace the back window. The electric car isn't lacking for power, though; it goes from 0 to 99kph in 4.5 seconds on two electric motors with a range of over 300 kms.





BARANGAROO



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AUSTRALIA 108



PACIFIC BOND





POWER PADS

THE ONLY WAY IS UP

WHAT better way to feel a lot more powerful than to float above the crowds with only blue skies, white clouds and breathless views for neighbours? That's definitely the approach being taken by Australia's super rich - and lots of well-heeled buyers from overseas - as penthouses and luxury apartments become the next big thing in premium living. Sydney will get bragging rights to Australia's most expensive apartment once billionaire James Packer's multi-story penthouse with prime Sydney Harbour views is finished in the \$2 billion, 275m **Barangaroo Tower**. Rumours are already flying that it could be worth close to \$100 million when finished this year to become the first to break the nine-figure barrier.

The 297 metre high **Eureka Tower** penthouse nearby may no longer be the country's highest, of course, but with the whole 82nd floor, \$20 million plus price tag and same sweeping views, it's still right up there. A private marble lobby, wood lined study and fully fitted onyx bar, are backed by sophisticated IQ-like home automation, multi-room entertainment and smartphone control.

Australia 108 penthouse is the southern hemisphere's tallest skyscraper. So far it is being called Australia's 'highest home' and the most expensive to date at \$25M. The 750 square metre apartment with its own private foyer and glass elevator, spans the entire 100th floor and perches 319 metres above the Yarra River, for 360 degree city and bay view's when it's completed in 2019.

The 900-square metre **Pacific Bondi Beach** penthouse in Sydney blended two apartments and sold last year for \$21 million, the most expensive till the recent Australia 108 deal. The two-storey apartment, with its distinctive elliptical shape, has four bedrooms, an internal lift, huge main bedroom, spa, gym, rooftop garden and a vast Bondi Beach frontage.

The penthouse at **105 Clarendon Street East Melbourne**, or 'tower of power' as it's known, is a vast whole-floor apartment with Fitzroy Gardens and city views. The interior glass walls, multiple terraces, 2 marble kitchens, rumpus room, 25m swimming pool, gymnasium plus sauna and steam room are the reason its reported price last year was over \$23M.

At 235 metres high, the **Greenland Centre** will be Sydney's tallest residential tower when it's finished, but that hasn't stopped the four-bedroom penthouse from selling for \$10.3M already. Spanning 328.7sqm on the 82nd floor-renumbered to suit Chinese buyers-it comes with spectacular views and luxurious materials like rare slab marbles, limestone and solid timbers. 





GEARED FOR SUCCESS

WHILE we may still be power dressing (occasionally) it's the gadgets we own, work or play with that are undoubtedly getting most of the attention these days. While your sneakers or suit can still get you a second look, more and more it's how cool, smart or cutting edge your high-tech gear is that really counts.

We take a look at some of the best you'll need around the office, on the plane or just in the bar to really stand out.

1 / Billed as the world's first luxury Android smartwatch, **TAG Heuer's Carrera 'Connected'** is a handsome newcomer to an increasingly crowded market. TAG's got no time for plastic of course, opting instead for grade 2 titanium, LCD scratch-resistant sapphire crystal, customisable displays, Intel chips for the smarts and an upgrade offer after 2 years.

2 / Apple and Samsung have called the smartphone shots for a while, but **Vertu's Signature Touch** is something else again. Great looking and hand made in titanium, ceramic and leather, the Android phone ticks off robust storage, camera and 5.2 inch 1080P LCD screen in tandem with a 24-hour global concierge for entertainment, dining and travel assistance.

3 / **Sony's Xperia Projector** turns any surface into an interactive tablet or smartphone screen and the prototype was a sensation at this year's SXSW. The tiny, fully autonomous device lets you play games, work on documents, send messages and even make video calls pretty much anywhere you take it and could soon be a must have in the C-Suite, travelling or at home.

4 / The future's mobile and that's why the hybrid laptop/tablet looks such a winner these days. **Microsoft's Surface Book** is the standout. Beautifully designed and built, it's also one of the most powerful, ultraslim and smartest versions on the market with the inventive dynamic fulcrum hinge for simple detach of the 'clipboard' for a fully functioning PC. Nice.



5 / For true power however, you need a remote presence robot to do your bidding. **The Double 2** from Double Robotics may set you back a few thousand dollars, but this simple robot lets you 'walk and talk' remotely using its wide-angle 150 degree lens, lateral stability control for any office obstacle and 2.5 km/ph. speeds to help keep up.





INNOVATION

PIMP MY RIDE

THE way we get around is not only getting more potent, but a lot more inventive. Everything from wings to water is getting re-imagined as ultra-luxurious, digital playthings that are as much about where you're at as where you're going. IQ and innovation are offering up whole new takes on cars, planes and boats, while introducing innovative mash-ups of what's possible in the air, road, water or even space. These strange hybrids breach the physical limitations of transport and deliver a whole new freedom in personal mobility.

I / For real power, you'll need to leave Earth, and **Virgin Galactic's Space Ship Two (SS2)** plans to take you there. The SS2 'rocket-plane' will take 6 passengers into space to experience weightlessness and official astronaut status. While a ticket costs well over \$100,000 plenty of A-listers like Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have already paid up.

II / **Toyota's i-Road Personal Mobility Concept** was one of the first in the race to make 3-wheel motorcycle/car mash-ups. A whole new take on rapid urban travel, the i-Road's futuristic, compact design, all electric power, 'tilting' ultra-maneuverability and zero emissions looks like becoming a powerful option for life in a fast city.

III / Move over Harry Potter because **Terrafugia's Transition** looks like being a real flying car or 'roadable aircraft' that also needs new government rules. Ingenious folding wings, glass cockpit avionics and carbonfibre construction means it can be parked at home and driven to the airport for take-off. The company's taking orders, but you'll need \$500,000 at least.

IV / Sweden's Gray Design sees a special bond between super cars and yachts. Their latest, the catamaran-like **Fairwei**, is laid out over four decks with plenty of room for their matching 'extreme vehicles for land and sea' like the 'Bird of Prey', an all-wheel drive hyper-hybrid, massive 1,200 plus horsepower with Formula One electric drive technology.

V / **E-Volo's Volocopter VC200** is an electric, two-seater multicopter/drone mash-up that comes with 18 rotors and a joystick for vertical takeoff and landing. A new aircraft category altogether, the VC200 is reportedly simple to fly and highly stable with networked microprocessors and sensors for control, but expect to pay close to \$400,000 when it finally takes off. ✈️



VIRTUALLY A BILLIONAIRE

A PPS and what we want from them, like everything else digital, keeps changing. They may have started out as addictive games then moved on to instant messaging, but are now shaping up as shortcuts to make our stressful, time-poor lives, a little bit easier. Working hand-in-hand with the boom in so-called on demand businesses, offering everything from chefs to chauffeurs, the latest apps are delivering the sort of lifestyle once only enjoyed by the very rich. Better still, bringing all these virtual staff into your life can be done when and where you want, without the hassles of hiring, firing or paying superannuation. Here's our pick of the best here and overseas.



iBillionaire

It's the app that could actually make you one and does away with trying to make sense of your broker's texts. It works by constantly streaming investment advice, knowledge and deals from actual billionaires like Warren Buffet or George Soros alongside an index of the top 30 companies top business leaders have backed.



Whizz

The app for all those household chores and whose tag line "swipe your phone to clean your home!" says it all. Whizz takes the hassle out of organising cleaners, paying them or knowing where they are if they don't turn up, but reportedly has plans to add pool cleaning, plumbing, electrical and handyman services—and, my favourite, Ikea furniture assembly!



Sherpa

This app promises to deliver, or pick up anything you want, as long as it's legal and fits in a car in 2 hours using a network of over a 1000 crowd-sourced 'Sherpa's'. A local startup, it's available in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth and is growing fast says the company.



Luxe

U.S. based Luxe may not be here but it should be. The app tells Luxe where you're going in the car and their blue-jacketed valets meet you and take over the parking, coming back when the app alerts them. They'll also fill it up or clean it and even drive you home if that's what you want after that big meeting.



Kitchensurfing

This New York startup app is another one we definitely need. Plenty of apps will deliver groceries or take away meals but this one actually sends out chefs to cook for you. They bring all the ingredients and gear and promise a home cooked gourmet meal in about half an hour. And yep, they clean up and do the dishes!

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POWER GROOMING

To look and feel great at work it's important to have the right products. Here are the best products to help you tackle the day ahead and come out winning.

A / **GOLDWELL DUAL SENSES HAIR & BODY SHAMPOO \$25.45**

This is a great time saver that cleanses, revitalises and delivers moisture to the body and hair. It can be used daily and it's awesome.

B / **GOLDWELL MEN DRY STYLING WAX \$25.45**

This dry styling wax is an easy to use styling product that offers a medium hold to accentuate and define hair. It's ideal for creating natural looks with a soft shine.

C / **CLINIQUE FOR MEN FACE SCRUB \$40**

Clinique for Men face scrub is a non-greasy scrub that contains menthol, helping the skin to feel clean and refreshed, while working to scrub away potentially pore-clogging dead skin flakes, excessive oil and surface dirt. The face scrub lifts out ingrown hairs with chemical and manual exfoliation to help achieve a smooth shave. Apply to wet face, scrub on skin and rinse with warm water. Allergy tested and 100 per cent fragrance free for dudes with sensitive skin.

D / **REDKEN COOL FINISH \$25.50**

Redken for Men Cool Finish Conditioner is a lightweight smoothing conditioner ideal for daily use on all hair types. Key ingredients include mint-fused technology, protein to help strengthen and peppermint to help scalp stimulation. The formula is designed to moisturise and strengthen hair for manageability and added shine while leaving the scalp refreshed. To use, distribute a small amount through shampooed hair, leave on for one minute and rinse.

E / **ARAMIS CLASSIC 24 HOUR HIGH PERFORMANCE ANTIPERSPIRANT SPRAY \$43**

After a high performance deodorant? This Aramis classic 24-hour high performance antiperspirant spray is a deodorant that ensures all-day protection against dampness and body odour. It also features the distinctively masculine Aramis Classic fragrance, which is perfect because it's basically a deodorant and cologne. Score.

F / **YVES SAINT LAURENT L'HOMME AFTER SHAVE LOTION \$90**

This is an aftershave with a formula that stimulates and moisturizes, providing soothing, softening and conditioning benefits to post-shaved skin.

G / **POUR HOMME SOIR, \$91 FOR 50ML \$125 FOR 100ML**

Bulgari Pour Homme Soir is the richest and most sophisticated fragrance of the Bulgari pour Homme collection. Intense and distinguished, the fragrance is classified as a woody oriental, and features notes of bergamot peel, Darjeeling tea and musk scents.

H / **KIEHL'S FACIAL FUEL 'HEAVY LIFTING' FIRMING, LIFTING, ANTI-WRINKLE MOISTURIZER FOR MEN \$50**

This is an anti-ageing skin moisturiser that has been formulated for men's thicker, coarser skin. The formula begins with a gentle exfoliating action to clear away surface layer debris. Utilising LHA exfoliating actives to break away the surface layer debris on men's tougher skin, this step not only improves dull looking skin but allows for lifting and firming to occur.

I / **MONT BLANC LEGEND \$79 FOR 50ML \$105 FOR 100ML**

A masculine but subtle scent, Mont Blanc Legend opens with lavender and bergamot and develops with middle notes of warm and sensual oak moss. The case bears the stamp of a metal thread following the gleaming curves of the masculine bottle.

THE POWER KNOT

There are many ways to tie a tie, however, the main knot for businessmen is the Windsor. It's a thick, wide, triangular tie knot that projects confidence, especially suited for the spread or cutaway collar.

STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 5



STEP 6



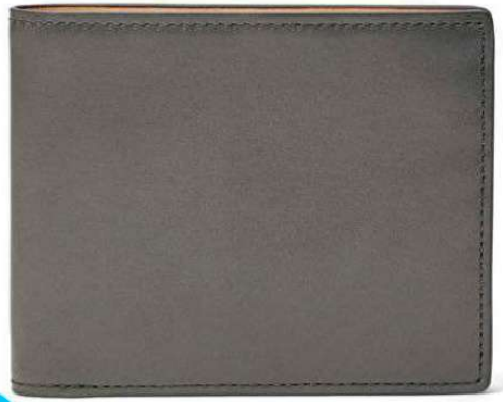
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2



3



4



5



6



7



ACCESSORIES

TINY details are what count when it comes to perfecting your look. Here are the best accessories to invest in when you want to convey your personal style.

When you think of power suiting it's natural to gravitate towards black, but lighter tones like grey work well with a sharp, black suit.

Constructed to make your working week easier and more stylish the **Ecco Folio Bag at \$295 (11)** is made from embossed cow leather.

If you know you have to dart from meeting to meeting, save yourself the hassle and invest in a leather backpack. Great for carrying your laptop in style.

Bringing great vintage styling to classic silhouettes, **Fossil's leather backpack at \$499 (5)** is a relaxed, go-anywhere look that's perfect for the modern man.

The final touches that complete a suit is the watch. Invest in a lifetime piece that you can wear to work and also on the weekend.

For something luxe the **Emporio Armani watch** retails **\$379 (2)**. It sports a leather strap and quartz movement.

If you're after something fancier the **Bentley B05 Unitime worldtime chronograph (4)** is back on the road in an all-black new livery, teamed with an original crocodile leather and rubber strap.

Sometimes it's easy to forget how important a wallet is especially when you're out on client meetings. There's nothing worse than pulling out something tattered. Depending on your budget and the type of wallet you prefer we have you covered.

If you're after a great no frills wallet the **Fossil wallet at \$79 (3)** is the perfect catch. If you're after something smaller there's the **Secrid available at Bijoux for \$119 (10)**. It's compact and secure and can hold six cards in the card protector and its interior offers space for money, receipts, business cards and some coins.

The next thing to look for when it comes to styling your suit is a tie pin. These are great to break up the colour and there are different styles available depending on your mood.

The **Peter Jackson tiepin \$39.95 (7)** is a short tiepin that adds a subtle detail to your finished look.

Alternatively, the **Top Man cufflinks and tie pin set \$23.99 (9)** will add sophistication to any suit.

The next element to completing your suit is the tie. These bad boys are a great way to inject your personal style in to your suit. Printed ties are a great way to showcase your personality and skinny ties are great if you prefer a rock n' roll vibe.

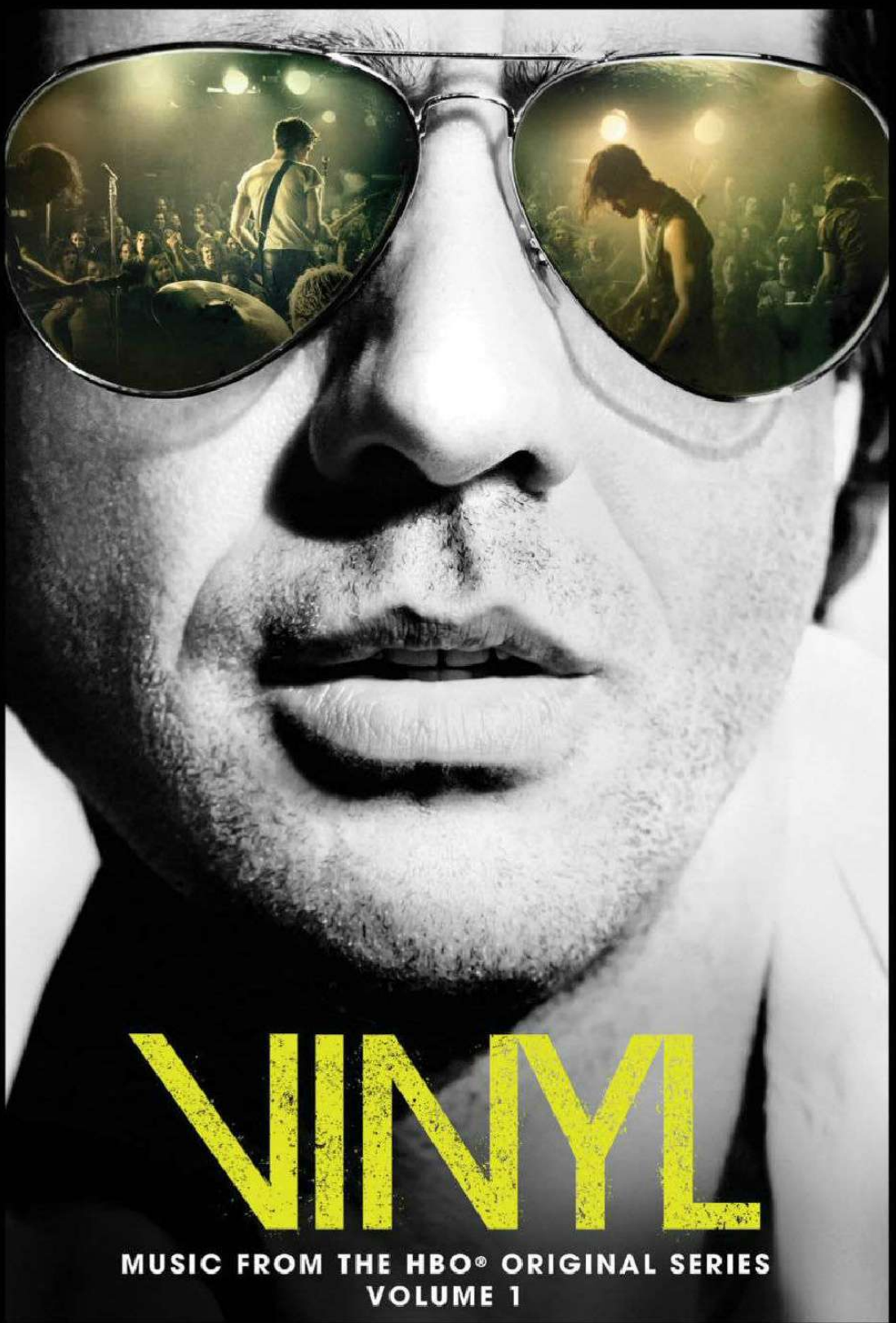
If you're looking to break up the corporate look, and dress like the shark that you are, then the **black and white shark print tie from Top Man \$18.99 (1)** has your name on it.

Jack London skinny tie \$49 (8) is great if you're after something other than a classic corporate look.

The last investment to make when it comes to accessories is shoes. What's trending now is the double monk strap. It's sleek and easy to wear with a suit but if you're after something fancier it's always great to have a patent pair of shoes. They lift a suit instantly.

Windsor Smith monk strap shoes \$189 (6). Made in Portugal, all leather with a double buckle opening.





VINYL

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GOOD TASTE



IN LIKE GIN

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OF ALL THE GIN JOINTS

GIN is in. No longer just the tippie of choice for nannas, the spirit is enjoying a welcome renaissance. Small distilleries are popping up all over the country and top bars are rearranging shelves to make room for the spirit. June 11 is World Gin Day and here are some of the best gin bars to mark the occasion.

BROKERS

A quadruple-distilled pure grain spirit made from English wheat is redistilled with ten traditional botanicals, creating a gin of outstanding flavour and smoothness.

\$50

PORTOBELLO ROAD

An old-style london dry gin, containing traditional botanicals and spices, that harks back to the gins of yesteryear.

\$80

GORDONS

Triple-distilled, the gin contains juniper berries, coriander seeds and angelica root to name a few. Enjoy in a classic gin and tonic.

\$37

BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

Considered one of the worlds true icon gins, it is the perfect way to begin the legendary cocktails, the martini and the G&T.

\$49

I. THE BARBER SHOP SYDNEY

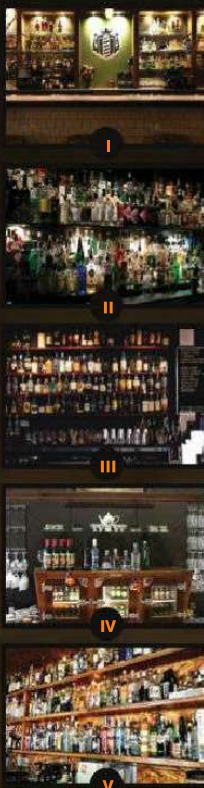
This popular haunt is a small bar, barbershop and gin palace all rolled into one. The bar's shelves heave with around 70 gins, including everything from well-known brands through to rare numbers. The Dutch spirit genever, an early predecessor to gin, features in a number of refreshing cocktails.

II. GIN PALACE MELBOURNE

A Melbourne stalwart, this basement shrine to gin features plush couches, low lights and plenty of velvet. Gin lovers will never want to leave. Especially not after perusing the selection of over 60 gins. Martinis are the most popular drink at the Gin Palace and come anyway you want.

III. DUTCH COURAGE OFFICERS' MESS BRISBANE

Colonial times come alive in the Valley at this British-inspired cocktail bar. Over 80 gins are available, many of them directly imported by the bar's owners. A menu of share plates, featuring drinking snacks like char-grilled lamb souvlaki, Vietnamese rice paper rolls and 'death wish prawns', will help steady your ship after all that gin.



IV. THE HOWLING OWL ADELAIDE

This cafe and bar pulls double duty. During daylight hours it's all about sandwiches and coffee and quiet, but when night falls a new crowd takes over, thirsty for gin. Lots of gin. 40-plus bottles of rare gins from Australia and overseas. Garnished with local spices, fruits and herbs and served with simple mixers or in elaborate cocktails.

V. FRISK SMALL BAR PERTH

All roads lead to Northbridge for Perth gin enthusiasts. That's where Frisk Small Bar is, with its motto 'We like gin' proudly announced on its menus. With a book-length menu of gins available, Frisk is the perfect Perth spot for a martini, a gin and soda, or a classic G&T. ☞

HENDRICK'S

A quality gin with Hendrick's an unexpected infusion of cucumber & rose petals that results in a most iconic gin.

\$70

TANQUERAY 10

Made from the highest quality spirit and finest botanicals, Tanqueray 10 delivers distinctly citrus flavours of grapefruit, oranges and limes.

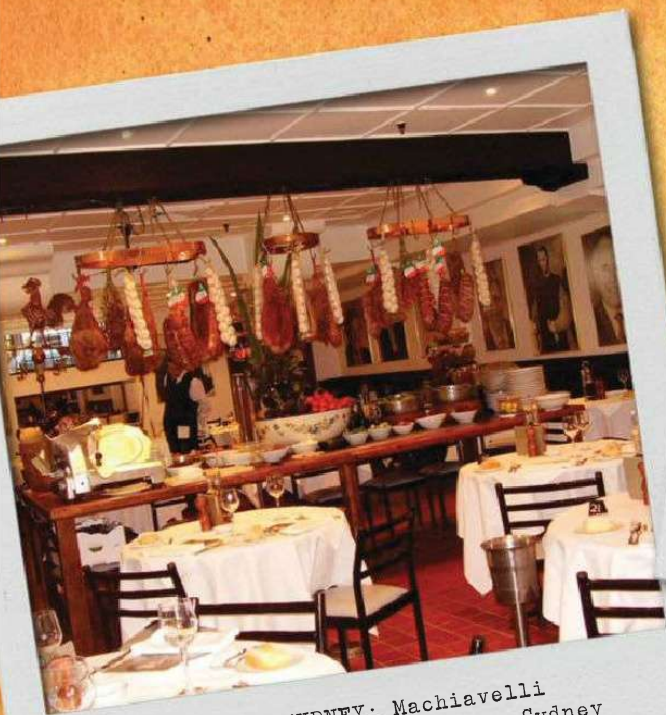
\$74

SIPSMITH

The quintessential expression of a classic, traditional london dry gin. Bold, complex and aromatic. Smooth enough for a martini, but rich and balanced, great for a G&T.

\$80

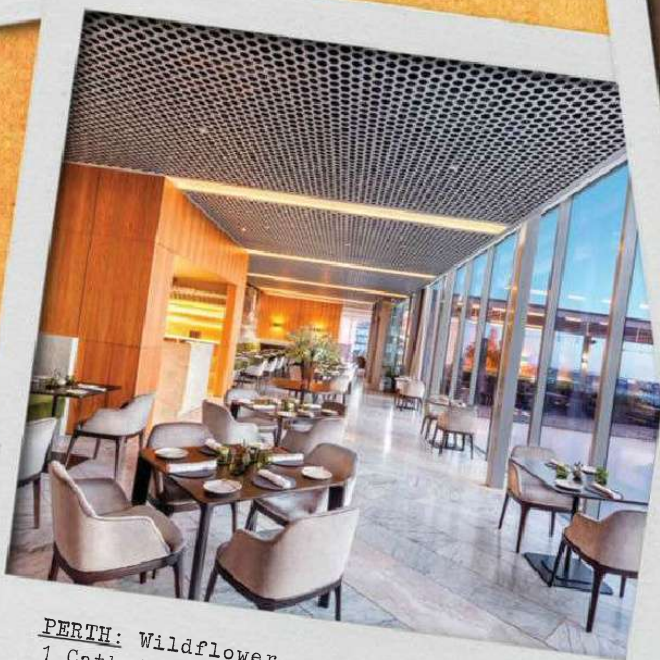




SYDNEY: Machiavelli
123 Clarence St, Sydney



BRISBANE: Les Bubbles
144 Wickham St, Fortitude Valley



PERTH: Wildflower,
1 Cathedral Ave, Perth



CANBERRA: Ottoman
9 Broughton St, Barton

FOOD TRENDS

WHERE TO POWER LUNCH

The concept may have peaked in the 1980s, but power lunches – long, often boozy, work-sponsored gatherings – are still practiced by many in the corporate, political and social worlds. Whether you want to solve a problem, complete a fraught negotiation or shore up your numbers, sometimes the best way is to get out of the office, roll up your sleeves, uncork some wine and dig into a hearty meal. Sometimes, the only way is the power lunch.

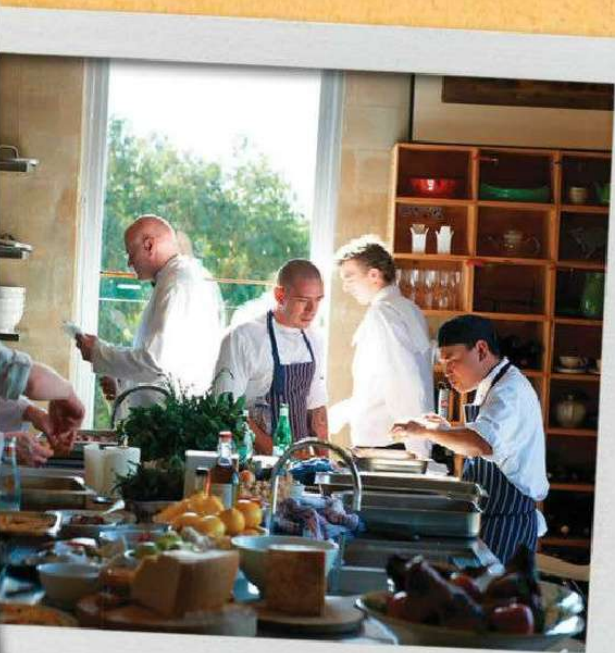
In Sydney, **Machiavelli** (123 Clarence St, Sydney) has been hosting important gatherings since it opened in the late 80s. Billing itself as 'the restaurant that means business', the Sydney institution remains a favourite of captains of industry and political power brokers alike. The walls are lined with portraits of powerful Australians who look out on a crowd hoping to follow in their footsteps. The menu rarely changes with classics like steak Diane and linguine gamberi ever popular.

Set in a former brothel, Brisbane restaurant **Les Bubbles** (144 Wickham St, Fortitude Valley) is a glitzy French brasserie ideal for a languid lunch. The moody room features leather banquettes, wooden tables and chairs and the requisite wall art of past and present powerful Queenslanders. The classic steak frites is the restaurant's signature dish and comes with a choice of three sauces. They also (discreetly) cater to vegetarians and non-red-meat eaters.

A St Kilda mainstay for decades, **Cafe Di Stasio** (31 Fitzroy St, St Kilda) just keeps on doing what it's always done: serving up refined Italian in an elegant room. It's the type of place to talk business, a place where the long and boozy lunches of the 1980s seem to have never stopped. The menu is thoroughly Italian – saltimbocca, roast duckling and slow-cooked lamb with all the trimmings.

On the west coast, the fourth floor of luxury hotel Como The Treasury is home to **Wildflower**, (1 Cathedral Ave, Perth) a newbie on Perth's dining scene but a hit already with WA's business set. With its luxe interiors – big windows looking out over the city, marble floors and comfy chairs – Wildflower is classy and serious. The menu sees native produce used in creative and imaginative dishes.

In the nation's capital – the scene of many a powerful gathering – **Ottoman** (9 Broughton St, Barton) has long been a favourite haunt for politicians and policymakers, given its location close to parliament. Presenting reliable Turkish classics, ranging from mezze plates to moussaka to lamb kofta, Ottoman provides the perfect setting for a long lunch. And if you still haven't sorted out your backroom deal, keep talking over baklava and Turkish coffee. ☺



MELBOURNE: Cafe Di Stasio
31 Fitzroy St, St Kilda

WHAT TO DRINK

2009 Garnacha Tintorera,
La Prohibicion, Spain
\$55

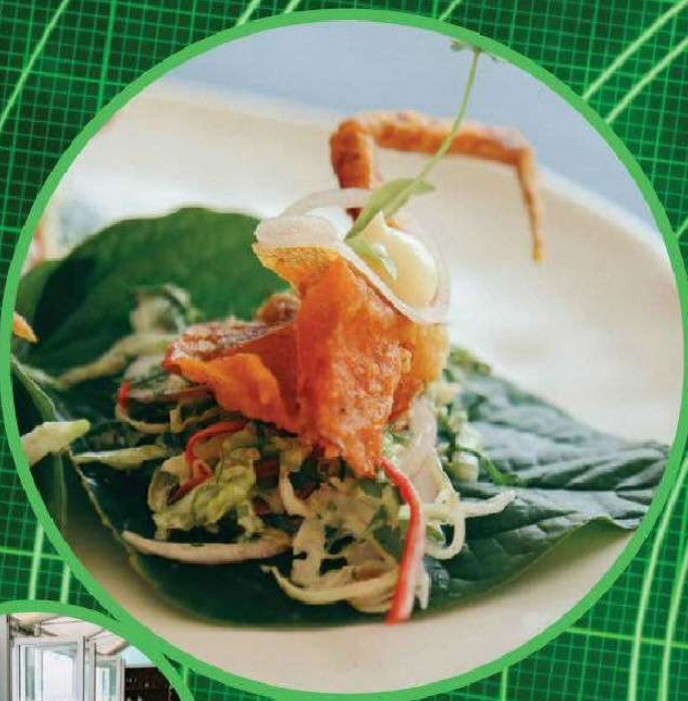
2010 Francois LeClerc,
Gevrey Chambertin,
Burgundy, France
\$65

2000 Wild Duck Creek
Estate Duck Muck Shiraz,
Heathcote
\$305

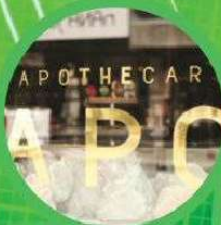
1997 Greenock Creek
Vineyards & Cellars
Roennfeldt Road Cabernet
Sauvignon, Barossa
Valley, Australia
\$344



10



RICK
SHORES





FOOD TRENDS

RESTAURANTS ON OUR RADAR

• Restaurant Hubert - Sydney

The much anticipated restaurant from the Swillhouse crew (the folks responsible for Sydney bars Shady Pines Saloon, Baxter Inn and Frankies Pizza), Restaurant Hubert is a flashy 120-seat city venue with multiple bar and dining areas. Chef Dan Pepperell (ex-10 William Street) heads the kitchen and has created a menu of hearty modern European fare.

• The Apo - Brisbane

Housed in a former apothecary, The Apo is a classy newcomer to the Valley. Spanning two-levels (restaurant at ground level and a bar on the first floor), The Apo's menu changes every few weeks with head chef Braden White offering a range of interesting small plates and larger plates designed for sharing between two.

• Rick Shores - Burleigh Heads

From the owners of Brisbane's Longtime, Rick Shores joins a growing number of hot eateries on the Gold Coast. Set overlooking the surf, Rick Shores is all about Asian fusion, merging elements of Thai, Japanese, Vietnamese, Chinese and Indian cuisine (think Moreton Bay bug rolls and Penang curry) into a sunny beachside package.

• Igni - Geelong

Chef Aaron Turner has brought fine dining to Geelong with the opening of Igni. Housed down a laneway in a former electrical goods shop, the 50-seater restaurant offers a five or eight course degustation. The dishes change frequently but local produce is always featured and the large grill in the open kitchen fires all night long.

• Kensington Street Social - Sydney

British chef Jason Atherton's brasserie dropped earlier this year as part of the Old Clare Hotel's reopening (big-name eateries Automata and Silvereye are also at the Clare). The vibe is flashy but polished with the large dining room centred around an open kitchen. The menu skirts low and high brow – try pork and fennel hot dogs, or roasted pork chop with cabbage and sweet and sour turnips. 



HEALTH WATCH

1/ CAKE AND LUNG CANCER

Although smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer, it isn't the only way to contract the deadly disease. Researchers from the University of Texas have found that people who consume a diet with a high glycemic index have increased rates of lung cancer. High glycemic foods elevate the level of blood sugars in your system soon after you eat them and include foods like breakfast cereals, white bread and cakes.

2/ STAND UP AND WORK

They might look strange, but stand-sit desks are becoming increasingly common in offices. A University of Sydney study has found that workers with sit-stand desks are as productive as their chair-bound counterparts with many even reporting increased energy and alertness levels. It might be time to stand up at work - prolonged periods of sitting have been linked to obesity, heart disease and diabetes.

3/ MODERATE DRINKING GOOD OR BAD?

Studies suggesting that moderate drinking is good for your health are common (and welcome), but an investigation into these studies has revealed a flaw. Curtin University says the studies often compare moderate drinkers with people who abstain from alcohol, but don't ask how long participants have abstained for - meaning some are former heavy drinkers who suffer poor health because of past consumption.

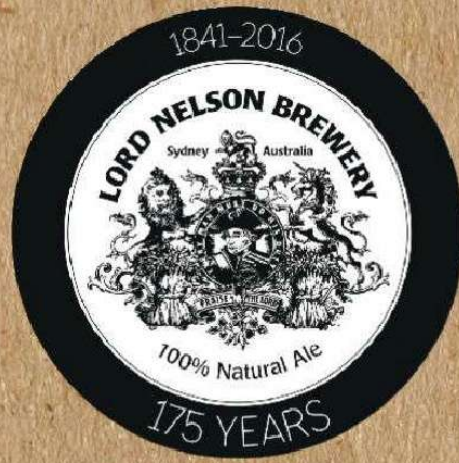
4/ STOP DEMENTIA NOW

Conventional wisdom is that dementia is something to worry about only when you are old and grey. A growing body of research suggests otherwise - that preventing dementia should start early. Alzheimer's Australia recommends five tips for staving off dementia: look after your heart, be physically active, challenge your brain, eat a healthy diet, and be socially active.

5/ EAT LIKE THE JAPANESE

Long known for having one of the highest life expectancy rates in the world, Japan is obviously doing something right. Now, researchers there have shown that people who follow the Japanese government diet have a 15% lower risk of death over a 15-year period compared to those who don't. The traditional Japanese diet is high in fresh vegetables and fruits, combined with reasonable amounts of fish and meats.





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A close-up photograph of coffee beans and grounds, with a white rectangular frame containing the text "COFFEE AND CO." in the center.

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POWERPLAY

A wise man once said, "With great power, comes great responsibility." The same can be said for beauty, an equally intoxicating force. 21 year Sydneysider Katie is the embodiment of power, sex and beauty. She's a force to be reckoned with and a beauty to be admired. But Katie isn't just good looks, her intense exercise routine keeps her in shape, in between which you'll find her snacking on chocolate and tea. A girl from our very own heart, she's a sucker for romantic movies and vintage classics. Gentleman take note.

Photography: Tony Veziris **Model:** Katie K **Hair & Beauty:** Emma Luciano
Model wears: Breitling watch, American Apparel

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INFORMER

A NEW HOPE?

MALCOM TURNBULL WAS SUPPOSED TO STRENGTHEN THE COALITION'S PUBLIC IMAGE, BUT IS IT WORKING?



MALCOLM POWDER

WITH AN ELECTION LOOMING AND THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES NECK AND NECK DOES TURNBULL HAVE WHAT IT TAKE? **BY SEAN BRUCE**

IN A snap press conference that caught the public and the political establishment off-guard, Malcolm Turnbull stood in front of Parliament House and declared 'the time for playing games is over'.

He was referring to the blockage of the bill to re-establish the Howard-era Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) along with the twice defeated registered organisations bill. Both bills have come up against staunch opposition from Labor, the Greens and six of the eight cross benchers.

The ABCC was originally introduced as a construction industry watchdog with power to clamp down on unlawful pickets and corrupt union practices. Whilst an independent watchdog is undoubtedly a good idea, especially for an industry with a less than scrupulous reputation, the powers given to the ABCC were deemed unnecessarily coercive. This charge is given more credence by the fact that no other industry is forcibly regulated to such an extent. As such, when the more union friendly Labor Party won government, it overturned the ABCC legislation in 2012, giving the organisation a new name – Fair Work Building and Construction – and a reduced set of powers. The FWBC is still in place today.

Diminishing the power of trade unions is central to the Liberal party dogma; passing this legislation would be a show of strength to the internal factions of the Liberal party, some of which are still questioning his leadership credentials.

The legislation, however, has been blocked in the Senate. Turnbull now has the key to a double dissolution and can call the Australian people to vote in an early election this July.

Turnbull had every reason to believe the bill would not be passed and surely understood that in all likelihood we would be going to the polls this winter. For a man who declared that the time for playing games is over, he certainly has a few tricks up his sleeve.

Dig, Lazarus, Dig – the rise and falling Malcolm Turnbull

The honeymoon period is over for Turnbull, who is faced with opposition on all sides of the political spectrum. He has a renegade right wing faction of Abbott supporters undermining his leadership and sustained attacks from the left for his abandonment of the progressive policy he once stood for.

This is a very different picture of the man who only recently looked ready to change the face of the Liberal party.

In September last year, Malcolm Turnbull stood jubilant, flanked by the newly re-elected deputy Prime Minister, Julie Bishop. He had finally achieved something that had been years in the making. He had become Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

The nation gave a sigh of relief – the increasingly unpopular Tony Abbott had put the public and his party on edge. Abbott

was gaffe prone, internationally embarrassing, politically unpopular – his goodwill with the people seemed to run out somewhere between knighting Prince Phillip and munching down on that onion.

An April Newspoll put the Labor party ahead of the Libs after preferences for the first time since Turnbull took the reins. A Fairfax-Ipsos poll has the election at 50-50, after preferences, suggesting a slight victory to the Liberal Party or perhaps another hung parliament.

The national survey of 1402 electors was conducted between April 14-16

and showed support for the Coalition had dropped by a statistically significant 3 percentage points since the March poll.

The Prime Minister's approval rating has dropped a hefty 10 points since March. Turnbull has also dropped seven points as preferred Prime Minister since March, but continues to lead Bill Shorten with the Fairfax-Ipsos poll showing Turnbull with almost double the support of Shorten at 54-27.

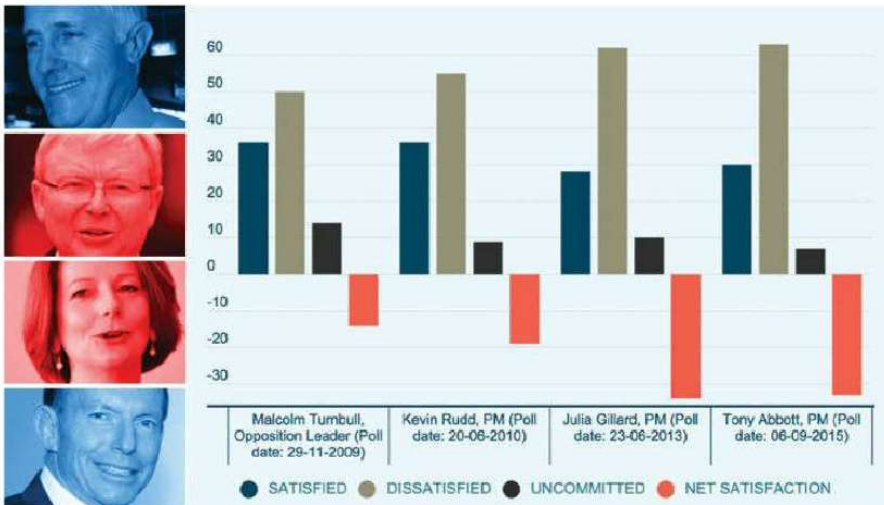
The Fairfax poll also suggests that a royal enquiry into the banking sector could be driving some of the Liberal Party's falling approval ratings. The public have shown their overwhelming support for an investigation into the banking sector after

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NEWSPOLL RESULTS BEFORE EACH LEADER FACING A CHALLENGE

SOURCE: THE AUSTRALIAN





allegations of price gouging on interest rates, denied insurance pay-outs and excessive transaction fees. A sizeable 65 per cent of electors support such a measure, which the Labor Party has promised to implement if elected. More than half of Coalition voters think a royal commission is justified, with Greens and Labor voters almost unanimously in favour at 79 per cent and 78 per cent respectively. So far, the government is not committed to such a measure.

Beyond the banks, mix-ups on health and education, a tax reform agenda that never seemed to get off the ground and a number of high profile ministerial resignations have shaken faith in Turnbull's leadership ability.

Matt Thistlethwaite, the opposition parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs and immigration, summed it up:

"He came to the prime ministership with such promise but he's delivered nothing. The Australian people wanted a thoroughbred and what they've got is a show pony".

If we have learnt anything from the revolving doors of leadership, it's that an unpopular leader can be toxic. When Turnbull took over the mantle, there was an implicit promise that he would bring about some of the more progressive reforms that the nation had been eager for. He told us he would explain things, rather than lecture, that he would engage in policy debate in an intelligent, rational way - that there would be no more policy being made on the run.

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However, Turnbull is dogged by prior decisions made by a decidedly inadequate Abbott government. Whilst he was a potent opposition leader, an attack dog and pugilist by nature, Abbott's governing style and leadership lacked awareness of the political landscape he existed in. He fomented a state of eternal crisis during his time as opposition leader. His ability to strike fear in the heart of the average Australian on the cost of living, housing, debt, productivity and a whole manner of different aspects of our lives that we didn't realise were catastrophically awry, was the strategy that led to toppling the Labor government in 2010.

Through promulgating an eternal state of chaos, Abbott also set the stage for his own demise. When he wasn't able to provide solutions for his self-induced trauma, the people - and the parliament - lost faith. No cuts to education, health or welfare - no cuts to the ABC or SBS - all broken promises. A few months into

his term it was plainly obvious – his government was struggling. A senate filled with minor parties made it impossible for Abbott to move – stuck on his own election promises, he was doomed to fail. Turnbull is now attempting to take on that legacy - and the cracks are already starting to show.

The Australian media had spent the better part of a year crucifying Tony Abbott - when it endorsed Turnbull's leadership, there was optimism that he could affect change. These expectations have been somewhat dashed. Faith in his leadership was shaken early on, with three cabinet resignations. One involving dirty dealings with Liberal Party donors, one involving a sleazy incident in a Hong Kong night club and one as a result of an ongoing police investigation. Turnbull isn't a president, no matter how hard we try to see it that way. He is the leader of a party that is still very much steeped in its own conservative culture. Many of the implicit 'promises' of Turnbull's leadership have now fallen by the wayside. Abbott has even been rearing his head to point out that there has been 'more continuity than change' since Turnbull took over the top job. Although at face value, Abbott is appearing to support his leader, there is the underlying accusation in his words – why was I replaced, when he hasn't done anything different? The accusation is coming from the other side of the political spectrum as well, who will continue to attack the Turnbull Liberal party if he can't demonstrate that he is different from Tony Abbott.

How to lose an election in 10 days

Realistically, the Liberal Party should have this next election in the bag. Currently they are sitting pretty on a notional 21 seat majority, with a uniform 4.4% swing needed to dethrone Turnbull and send the Libs into opposition. That is, of course, presuming they can build some momentum after a pretty abysmal start. Threatening a double dissolution has effectively launched the election campaign and so far, Turnbull has not done much in terms of forward movement. After sustained attacks from Labor, he abandoned his proposed GST hike and faltered in trying to convince the states to fund healthcare and public schooling. It's hard to build excitement around your party when all you do is back away from politically unpopular decisions. The issue becomes even worse when your own party members don't seem to know what's going on. Take the decision to move the budget forward a week. Scott Morrison, the federal treasurer was on the radio that very morning assuring the public that the budget would be on the same day it is every year, when it had in fact been moved forward just a few hours before. You know there is a trust issue when the Prime Minister isn't communicating vital facts to his inner circle. It doesn't exactly give the impression of a unified party gearing up to go to the polls.

The path forward for Turnbull lies in the roots of his leadership position. He was initially given the job due to his broad appeal and ability to sweep up some of Labor's more conservative voters. It is a good strategy. As the Greens continue to edge in on Labor's left vote, picking up more seats in the lower house with every election, Turnbull could fracture some of the right leaning Labor voters who are disenchanted with Shorten's lacklustre leadership.

Billy the Comeback Kid

Bill Shorten has already begun his election campaign on the right footing, mostly thanks to free kicks provided by Turnbull. Whilst the LNP struggle to provide us with a clear view of what another Liberal Party term in government would look like, Shorten and the Labor Party are surprisingly unified. Turnbull's suggestion that the federal government drop public school funding but continue to fund private schools provided the ALP with an easy shot at goals. Turnbull was forced to walk away from an ugly looking policy and Shorten was able to consolidate his support base by standing up for well-funded education. On a similar vein, the curtailing of negative gearing tax breaks and limiting subsidies for wealthy people's superannuation is an easy policy platform to stand on. The general population are becoming ever more disillusioned with policy designed to help the rich – Labor can carve a way forward by promoting themselves as protectors of the little guy. Furthering their populist appeal, the ALP has also promised to make moves to legalise gay marriage should they win government. This is as opposed to the Liberal Party who declared that it should be decided in a plebiscite – a \$160 million dollar, publicly funded vote.

At this stage, it would be unfair to say that the Labor Party could win – the odds are stacked against them. There are a couple of reasons for this. Firstly, the revolving-door Prime Ministership; nobody really wants to see Prime Minister number five in only three years. Australians also may wish to give this new government a fair go. Turnbull is still new, and even if his ratings are falling, he is still far more popular than Shorten. Which brings us to the final reason – Shorten himself. Never Mr Popular, Shorten has failed to capture the spotlight. His dull, droning style in press conferences has never made him a media darling. He has had few moments where he has genuinely appeared 'Prime Ministerial' and he continues to be an unpopular choice for PM.

Whilst Turnbull is still fairly popular as a PM, his party is steadily declining in popularity. Equally, Bill Shorten has never seen any enduring enthusiasm for his leadership, however, his party is steadily on the rise. The Liberal Party will push the issue – a vote for the

Labor Party is a vote for Bill Shorten. The Labor Party would do well to push the same in reverse – a vote for Malcolm Turnbull is a vote for the Liberal Party.

With the battle lines being drawn and the election issues becoming cemented, this year's campaign is heating up. Realistically, there should be no reason for the renewed Liberal Party under the leadership of Malcolm Turnbull to lose. If they are going to move forward after a lame start, they better start by consolidating their positions on a few key issues. In order to do that, first Turnbull had better pull some of his rogue backbenchers into line – disunity foment weakness and the Labor Party would love nothing more than to pounce on a fractured government. For the Labor Party, there appears the small, almost outlying hope that they can still win this. Consolidating the voter base on popular issues is a step in the right direction. The rest will be down to the Liberal Party, who if they continue as they are now, may end up handing this over to the other side. ☺

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THERE HAS BEEN 'MORE
CONTINUITY THAN
CHANGE' SINCE TURNBULL
TOOK OVER THE TOP JOB**
”





THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF AUS

THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM
BY BRENDAN O'NEILL

THE worst "ism" in modern politics isn't 'feminism' or 'socialism' or 'capitalism'. It's 'Great White Hopeism'.

This is when a bunch of people irritated by the glacial pace of change invest their hopes in one person who they fantasise will fix everything and transform society into a happy-clappy, puppy-filled utopia. Inevitably, it always ends in tears.

We saw it with Tony Blair in 1997. His fanboys treated him as messianic. They whooped and wept in the street when he was elected. They saw him as saviour of both the knackered British Labour Party and of grey, staid Britain itself. In the end this false god gave us loads of wars and an assault on civil liberties that would make Big Brother beam with pride.

We saw it with Obama, and now with Trump too. Obama-maniacs and Trumpites think they're polar opposites – the former fancying themselves as decent democrats and the latter looked upon as un-PC rednecks – but actually they have a lot in common.

Both the "Yes We Can!" followers of Obama in 2008 and the "Make America Great Again!" crowd lining up behind Trump today indulge in Great White Hopeism (or Great Black Hopeism, in Obama's case): they think one charismatic person, one strong orator, will make everything cool again. It's more demagoguery than democracy.

And we've had it in Oz too. Here, Malcolm Turnbull was the Great White Hope. He was embraced by Aussies ticked off with Tony, and especially with his failure to let gays get married and do something about climate change – pretty much the only issues media types give a damn about these days.

As soon as Turnbull flashed his dagger and hinted he was ready to knife Abbott, the chattering classes egged him on. Like modern-day Brutus's they cheered his betrayal of his leader. Then they had fits of joy when he did it. They pumped out newspaper columns about how ripper Turnbull was, and clogged up Twitter with cringe-inducing tributes to this Wizard of Oz, this magician who would remake the nation, using the sort of lingo you'd expect of a 13-year-old girl gushing over Harry Styles.

And what happened next? Tears, of course. Turnbull turned out to be a blowhard, full of media-friendly bluster rather than real conviction. His rating as preferred PM has plummeted, tumbling

from 74.9% in early February to 60% at the end of March. He now looks "more dodgy than decisive", say pundits, including some of the pundits who shoved him to the top of a pedestal in the first place. Let's hope they learn the mistakes of Great White Hopeism.

Turnbull's rise and demise, his backstabbing grab for power followed by his falling out of favour, reveals the extent to which the media classes now set the political agenda.

It was they who sowed the seeds of doubt about Abbott, relentlessly, and mainly on the issues of gay marriage and climate change. To these comfortable city elites, who don't have to worry their well-coiffured heads about vulgar political matters like the economy and jobs, the virtue-signalling issues of gay marriage

and climate change are all that matter. That's how they measure a person's moral worth. Is he pro-equal marriage and into Saving The Planet? Then he's good; let's bow down.

Yet Turnbull disappointed them. He ended up toeing the party line on gay marriage. And even though he retained the \$10 billion Clean Energy Finance Corporation, a green monster Abbott threatened to abolish, some eco-nuts think this is just a cover for his real aim of pursuing more industrial initiatives.

And so, having cynically, undemocratically and with extreme arrogance elevated Turnbull over Abbott, like ancient oracles picking a king, now they whisper about toppling Turnbull. These chattering-class kingmakers think we need someone else. Another bloody Great White Hope.

Not surprisingly, Abbott is secretly stirring up some of the Turnbullphobia, and why shouldn't he? He's seen that backstabbing is all the rage.

We should learn two lessons from Turnbull's troubles. First, it's a bad idea to let aloof media people set the political agenda and effectively pick the PM. These people are cut off from reality, and don't know what they're doing. And secondly, it's folly of the highest order to expect one person, a secular saviour, a wizard, to make everything better. Such claptrap is for fairytales. Grown-ups should know that real political change requires open debate, public engagement, and a lot of hard graft. 

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THE WALK-OFF KING WEIGHS IN

AUSSIE UFC STAR MARK HUNT TAKES ON THE WORLD **BY SEAN BRUCE**

WE MET up with Mark 'the Super Samoan' Hunt to chat about his life in and outside of the Octagon. Known as the 'walk-off king' and dubbed by some as the hardest hitter in the world, Hunt has become an Ultimate Fighting Championship sensation for his powerful striking ability. After three successive victories, all by devastating knock-out, Hunt will be one to watch this year as he aims to take out the heavy weight title. At 42 years old, if he achieves this incredible feat, he will be the first Oceanic UFC title holder.

How did you start fighting?

Mark Hunt: I was in altercation outside a night club when I was 18 and the bouncer saved me from being arrested – (He's being modest, he knocked out multiple people - Ed.). My first fight was four days

the right way. I had no education, I had my second stint in jail at 21 - I was going back there for sure. What was I going to do? I already had the gangs try to sign me up, so I was going down that path. It helped me change my ways as an angry teen, from a bad person to a good person – I'm not saying I'm perfect, but it helped me change my ways.

How did you get the nickname 'Super Samoan'?

I'm a big gamer and big cartoon fan and I spent about 10 years fighting in Japan and there's a program called Dragon Ball Z that I used to watch – I used to love it – and they were called Super Saiyans. I was nicknamed the Samoan Monster over in Japan, but they started nicknaming me Super Samoan – because of my heritage – and because I used to love watching that cartoon. When the Super Saiyans

born to fight. I feel that God has blessed me with the gift - which is to fight – to take punishment – which is pretty much what I'm good at. It's kind of a funny thing to say that – but that's just the way it is.

How does your faith influence your fighting?

A lot, of course – God doesn't make mistakes. He made my parents the way they were towards me so that I am the man I am now. I mean, people laugh about it, but that's just the way I see it – I don't really care what anyone thinks about me, regardless. I'm just doing what I'm doing and living my life the best I can.

I see it as part of God's plan for Mark Hunt – no man can close the doors that God has opened for me. Especially with the company I work in – I mean the UFC was a company in which I wasn't even wanted. Now seven or eight years on, I'm

I WAS ON A BAD PATH AS A KID AND FIGHTING ACTUALLY SAVED MY LIFE

later in a Muay Thai boxing ring. [Before then] I was just partying but then the bouncer saved me, and well, as they say - the rest is history.

What would you be doing if you weren't fighting?

I would probably be back in jail. I've been in jail twice and I can't hide this – it's in my book – the book's out already and I've spoken pretty freely about everything. So yeah, I would probably be back in jail. I was on a bad path as a kid and fighting actually saved my life. It took me away from being such an angry kid, an angry teenager, to someone who moved away from all that – because confrontation is what I do – words exchange and that's what I do - I fight for a living. It saved me from going the illegal way to going down

would fight, their hair would go white and they would charge up and get super powers – and that's my little gimmick.

Speaking to someone who has never been inside a ring, can you explain to me what it's like to step inside the ring and fight?

The thing about this, with fighting, I feel free in the Octagon, I don't have any hassles in my mind, I don't worry about anything I have to do but work. I probably couldn't get into a race car and drive around a track as quick as some of those guys, or ride a horse, but there's people who are made to do that – just like I'm made to fight. The feeling of it – it's hard to explain. The thing about it - is being hurt in front of millions of people and still being able to continue – but like I said – I was

talking to Dana (Dana White, president of the UFC – Ed.) about a new contract just this morning, so – go figure that one out.

Speaking of which - you were offered \$450,000 by Dana White to retire – what kept you around?

You should ask Dana that question (laughs), I can't speak on behalf of Dana. It's not a question you should ask me, it's a question you should ask Dana. Ask him – he'll tell you (laughs).

What do you say to people who want to get into fighting?

I've been fighting for 20 years at the top of two different sports – first at kickboxing and now mixed martial arts. What you must understand first: is it something that you want to do? Something you need to do? Do you feel like it's part of your life?





Because the circle does not go into the square. It's like Mr. Miyagi said – you either do or you don't – there is no try. You don't think whether you're going to throw a punch or a kick, you just do it or you're going to get hurt. This is the hurt business – so you'll get hurt if you're in half a mind about it.

What do you think about retirement?

Man, I've had the most punches in the head in UFC history – but look at me, I'm still talking to you well – I may not be able to remember a lot of shit (laughs) – but I love fighting – like I said – I was born to fight. I still love competing and getting that rush. I feel I'm getting better, like I said, I was just talking to Dana this morning about finishing my career with them and a new contract – I think I'll be the world champion at the end of this year – I think I'll be the best fighter on the planet again, if I get the opportunity.

Frank Mir recently said that you were the hardest hitter in the UFC – that must feel good?

I don't know – I think it's probably because he didn't see it coming – I think it's the ones you don't see coming are

walking to the side and thinking 'is he out? – yeah, he's out', then I walked off.

In 2014 you accepted an interim title fight on short notice and dominated, but ended up losing. Do you regret not jumping on Fabricio Werdum to finish the job?

No, I don't regret it – I made a decision not to jump on him. Sometimes he's kind of crafty, trying to bait you into his grappling game – that's how he does it. He wasn't in a dazed state – he was just baiting me down to try and jump into his guard and start wrapping me up and I didn't want go there – that's his world. I don't mind playing in it, but when you haven't had a fight camp and only three and half weeks of weight loss, there's no way you should play around on the ground like that. He caught me fair and square – but if we fought again – there's no way he'd beat me – there's no way none of those guys would beat me. If we had a rematch they're all going to get knocked out.

Heavy Weight Champion Mark Hunt has a pretty nice ring to it – how long has it been your dream to be #1 in the UFC?

want to bring a program that teaches them personal training or nutrition and help fighters get diplomas that they can use to build themselves so that they can work in other areas of fighting – like management or sports. Not everyone can be a prize fighter – and just in case you don't make it – here's something you can work towards.

You recently released a biography (Born to Fight) detailing the story of your life. You had some pretty difficult moments – what advice would you have for people going through hardships?

The book I released, Born to Fight – I didn't do it for money. My publisher got me to agree by telling me: 'you can help other with their journey – doesn't matter their background.' People can read this book and understand that they can help themselves. Their struggles in life aren't as bad as they think. My struggles, I never thought were bad – but I knew they were kind of crazy. But then I met Deng (friend of Hunt's from Africa) and I listened to his story and I was like 'holy shit – this is crazy'. I sat back and I appreciated

HAD I GONE BACK FOR HIM AGAIN, HE WOULD HAVE HAD NO JAW. I KNOW IT'S THE HURT BUSINESS – BUT WHEN HE'S DONE, HE'S DONE

the ones that get you. He didn't really see it because he was too busy ducking his head the other way. It's the same for him, had he caught me doing something, he would have snapped it off – without even a second thought. So I got him before he got me (laughs) – kudos to that.

You're known as the walk-off king – why don't you jump on your opponents when they hit the ground?

To be honest, I could see Frank was done. It's like when I hit Struve – I knew he was done. I mean he had a broken jaw – I didn't know that – but I knew that he was done – and had I gone back for him again, he would have had no jaw. I know it's the hurt business – but when he's done, he's done.

How do you know when someone is 'done'?

If I hit someone who's not trying to grab me and drag me down – he's done. That's kind of pretty easy – right? When I hit someone and they're just staring – like when I hit Frank, I moved to the side and he was still looking forward – and that was it. I was just staring at him as I was

Ever since I wasn't wanted (laughs). You can't tell me I'm not good enough – I was told that my whole life as a kid. What's really annoying – he's [Dana White] telling the whole world this – that you're a shit fighter and you're not worth it. Now – I don't blame him – because of my record at the time – I had lost five in a row and I don't think anyone wanted me. I mean, that'll get anyone's fire back if someone tells you you're not good enough – I mean, 'who are you to tell me I'm not good enough? I'm one of the best fighters in the world, y'know? I've got raw blood here – what do you mean I'm not good enough?' (laughs). That's what gets me upset – that's how I got my fire back and I thank Dana for doubting me – because I'm nearly there.

What's the next move for Mark Hunt? What's in store for life after fighting?

I'm glad you asked that actually. We are starting a thing called MMA Academy – what happens is that only 2-5% of the top fighters ever make a living out of it – but for the others, they fall off to the wayside. So with MMA Academy we

some of the stuff I've gone through and how little it was compared to some of the stuff he'd been through. It puts things in perspective – if people can read the book, they can realise that life isn't really that bad at all – they've got food in their stomach, roof over their heads – or they're working towards it. At least being born this side of the world is an opportunity for them to help themselves. In a country where Deng was from, they were fighting a war with AK's when they were kids! Go figure – he thought it was normal. And you thought your life was bad! Sometimes you got to suck it up and take steps to make your life better somehow.

There's always a light at the end of the tunnel – doesn't matter how bad it gets. Depression – some people take the route of killing themselves – my brother killed himself just under a year ago because he was so depressed. But if you reach out – there's always someone to give you a hand, doesn't matter what situation it is. If you need help – there's always someone to help you. ☺

NO ONE GIVES A SHIT THAT YOU'RE OFFENDED

OFFENDED? GOOD! GET OVER IT.

BY BRENDAN O'NEILL

STEPHEN Fry once said that the best response to bleaters who say "I'm offended by that!" is "Well, so fucking what?" To make a public spectacle of your offended feelings, to cry about how rattled you feel by something you saw or heard, is "no more than a whine", Fry said. And therefore "it has no meaning".

He's right. Today's battalions of offence-takers are just glorified moaners. They simply do in public what those always-offended old ladies with blue rinses used to do in private.

In the pre-internet era, when tweeting was something only birds did, elderly offence-takers would post irate letters to some TV station or newspaper that pissed them off. Now, courtesy of the internet, everyone with a gripe, whatever their age, whatever their political bent, can splutter their outrage online.

There's a veritable outrage industry. From Twittermobs who condemn anyone who says something shocking, to super-sensitive students who ban lads' mags, Robin Thicke and phrases that they judge to be "microaggressions", everyone's taking offence. And everyone's insisting that the thing that offended them be squashed.

It's like we all think we should be protected by our own personal blasphemy law. Once, it was only the likes of Christ who was guarded from "scurrilous, reviling or contemptuous" material; now we're all little Jesuses, demanding: "That thing made me feel bad – destroy it!"

Such endless confectioned fury, such non-stop churn of personal outrage, isn't only grating – it's a barrier to free thought, and even progress.

It invites social paralysis, encouraging us all to obsessively edit our thoughts and police our blather, lest we unwittingly affront someone who has their offence antennae turned up to 10.

Worse, it acts like a deadweight on the ankle of artistic experimentation and intellectual daring.

If everything from a saucy music video (like Rihanna's 'Bitch Better Have My Money') to the arguments of libertarian feminist scholar Christina Hoff Somers (who is booed off American campuses) can crank up the outrage machine, then people will think: "I better not express that risky thought lurking in my head. I'll just leave it there, to gather dust."

So I'd go further than Fry. The fashion for wailing "I'm offended!"

is more than an irritant. It's the enemy of cultural, political and personal freedom. It nurtures a climate of "You Can't Say That!" It gives rise to self-silencing, making people hold back the edgy stuff in their minds, most of which will be nonsense, yeah, but some of which just might be era-shakingly interesting.

We shouldn't only tell the easily offended to quit their whimpering. We should tell them that being offended is good. Far from harming us, it helps us. It forces us to think; it toughens us up; it builds our backbone.

Both giving offence and receiving offence are wonderful things. Indeed, all the freedoms we cherish, all the tech and comforts we enjoy, are the gift of people who gave offence.

If Copernicus hadn't offended priests with his insistence that the Sun, not the Earth, was at the centre of the solar system, we wouldn't live in such a scientifically clued-up world. If the Suffragettes hadn't offended against the natural order, and demanded that women should have the same political say as blokes, we'd still be living in an unequal world. If the publishers of men's mags – like this one – hadn't offended the bejesus out of the buttoned-up brigade in the 1950s and 60s, then the sexual revolution might never have happened

and many of us would be stuck in a loveless, sexless rut.

The "offensiveness" of earlier generations, their willingness to rail against orthodoxies, made our lives freer, happier, fulfilling.

Then there's taking offence. Everyone should open themselves up to offence. You should feel shaken to your core at least once a day. It's good for you. Don't stamp out things that offend you; cherish them, embrace them.

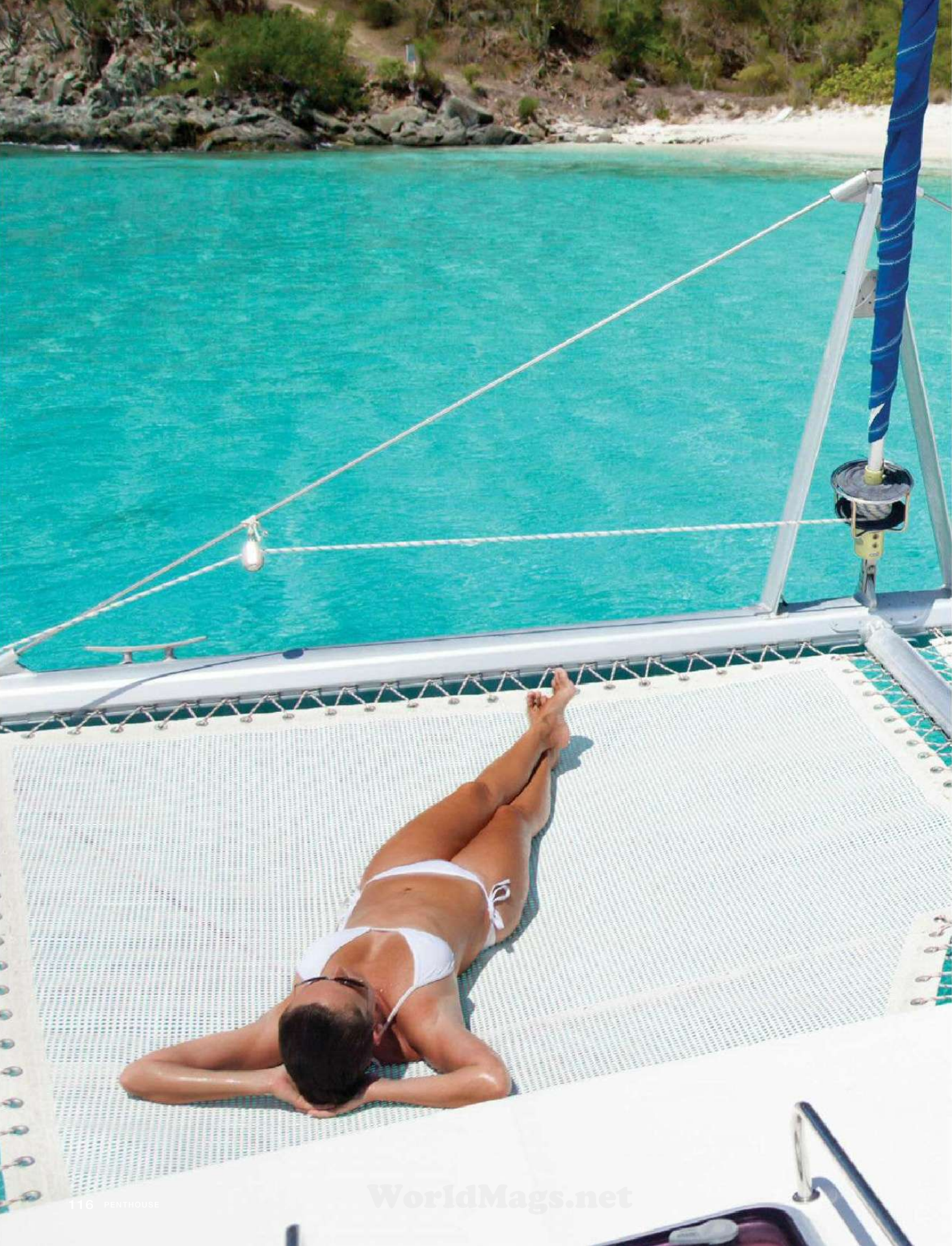
The greatest liberal, John Stuart Mill, argued in 1859 that we must allow our beliefs to be "fully, frequently, and fearlessly discussed", because otherwise those beliefs become "dead dogmas".

In other words, if you cut yourself off from ridicule, and dodge public debate, you become a robot, thinking in a fixed, rigid, dogmatic way. It is only by opening ourselves up to the possibility of being offended that we can give our brain cells a workout and our imagination a spring clean.

Living in an offence-free bubble will turn you into a bore and a tyrant. Burst out of it. Today, go out and offend someone, and let someone offend you. You'll both benefit. 

**BOTH GIVING
OFFENCE AND
RECEIVING OFFENCE
ARE WONDERFUL
THINGS**





GET RICH OR DATA TRYING

IF SOMEONE BREAKS THE LAW BUT NO ONE IS AROUND TO WITNESS IT...

BY SEAN BRUCE

“HELLO. This is John Doe. Interested in data?”

These were the first words from an anonymous source that led to the largest data leak in history. For a year, via encrypted channels, information about the shadowy dealings of Panamanian law firm, Mossack Fonseca was

leaked to Bastian Obermeyer, an investigative reporter working for German newspaper, Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

Obermeyer quickly responded: “We’re very interested”.

The person on the other end insisted that certain security measures be followed prior to the transfer of information.

“My life is in danger. We will only chat over encrypted files. No meeting, ever. The choice of stories is obviously up to you,” the anonymous source wrote.

When asked why they were willing to undergo such a large scale and risky operation, the unknown person on the other end of the encrypted channel replied bluntly: “I want to make these crimes public.”

After a year of investigation done in secret by over 400 journalists around the world, the findings have implicated world leaders, famous athletes, celebrities, politicians and the mega-wealthy.

So, what kind of service does Mossack Fonesca provide and why has it got everybody talking? Mossack Fonesca help to set up so-called 'shell companies' in overseas tax-havens. These companies are used to hide the identity and wealth of an individual. This is not technically illegal, and often it is a prudent business decision to establish an offshore company. If you wished, for example, to engage in a joint venture with a Chinese national, but you didn't trust the judicial system in China to protect your interests, a shell company could be established in a neutral territory with a reliable judicial system. The issue that is becoming more and more evident through the Panama papers, is the extent to which these offshore companies are being used to help the mega-wealthy elite avoid paying their fair share of taxes and in some cases launder money obtained through illegal activities. This is a serious issue – it has long been suspected that the rich and powerful were abusing their status to avoid legal obligations to society – the Panama papers have provided us with hard evidence of this fact. The average citizen is forced to play by the rules while the wealthy elite simply make their own.

The range of services Mossack Fonseca provides and the extent to which they will go to protect your wealth is outstanding. When legal papers filed in U.S. district court in Las Vegas linked funds embezzled by an associate of a former Argentine president to Mossack Fonesca, the company initially attempted to block a subpoena demanding information on their client. According to information found in the leaked documents, when this failed, a team of IT staff based in Panama attempted to wipe clean or obscure any information relating to the case. Emails exchanged suggested that they went as far as to send an employee from Panama to Nevada and spirit away physical documentation.

"When Andrés came to Nevada he cleaned up everything and brought all documents to Panama," a Sept. 24, 2014 email said.

Further to this, leaked files showed employees would regularly backdate documentation to help their clients receive financial advantages. This practice was so commonplace that email transcripts show employees discussing a pricing structure – clients would pay \$8.75 for every month a document is backdated.

When questioned by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, the firm responded that it "does not foster or promote illegal acts. Your allegations that we provide shareholders with structures supposedly designed to hide the identity of the real owners are completely unsupported and false."

The firm's co-founder Ramon Fonseca indicated in a recent interview that it is not the responsibility of the company to ensure that their client's behaviour is legal. In a sense he is right – it is not illegal to establish a shell company overseas and it is not illegal to insist on privacy in the management of your assets. Fonseca related the creating of shell-companies to the manufacture of cars, arguing that holding Mossack Fonesca

responsible for what their clients did with their companies was similar to holding a car factory responsible "if the car was used in a robbery" he said.

The leaks have already seen some big names exposed for their involvement with offshore companies. Most notably, Vladimir Putin, former KGB agent and current President of Russia is linked to approximately \$2 billion in funds squirrelled away in a vast network of overseas companies. That Putin is involved in shady dealings is probably news to no one. David Cameron, the Prime Minister of England on the other hand, urged his country's overseas territories to help him to prevent tax evasion and create greater transparency in offshore business dealings. Of course, had he simply asked his own father, he would have a good idea of how difficult that task would be. The late Ian Cameron, father to the Prime Minister, had hired Mossack Fonesca to help set up his own offshore company to protect his investment company from U.K. tax law.

The Prime Minister of Iceland stood down after an awkward confrontation during an interview that exposed his holdings in an offshore company. The company held bank bonds for three of the major Icelandic banks that collapsed in the early stages of the Global Financial Crisis. He had advocated against state bail-out measures that would have prevented those banks going bust. Suspicion around his political stance has arisen, as in the event of liquidation, his offshore company would have been a creditor in the bankruptcy. There is the potential that his political stance against bailing out the banks could have been for personal interest. The fact that he did not declare this clear conflict of interest has now landed him in significant political trouble.

The list of other notable public figures includes the 'usual suspects': mega-wealthy public officials who have long prospered in countries lacking the judicial frameworks to prevent them accruing massive wealth and power over the people they rule. This includes heads and former heads of state from Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Ukraine.

But perhaps what is most intriguing is the suspicious absence of wealthy Americans from those named and shamed in the leak. Many pundits have proffered the explanation that Panama simply isn't the destination of choice for wealthy Americans wanting to disguise their considerable assets. Then again, why would it be? Their own country already provides all the means for any wealthy individual wishing to seek refuge from tax.

The U.S. is "effectively the biggest tax haven in the world" wrote Andrew Penney, a managing director at Rothschild & Co., a branch of the centuries-old European financial institution. In fact, wealthy individuals from all around the world have been pulling their money out of traditional offshore tax havens such as the Bahamas and the British Virgin Islands and putting it into U.S. tax havens located in Wyoming, Nevada and South Dakota.

The hypocrisy of the U.S. being a number one destination for those looking to hide their wealth is palpable. On one hand the U.S. passed legislation in 2010 – the Foreign Accounts

“
**MY LIFE IS IN
DANGER. WE WILL
ONLY CHAT OVER
ENCRYPTED FILES.
NO MEETING, EVER**
”



Act, or Fatca – that requires overseas financial firms to disclose the activities of U.S. citizens and report them to the IRS, with failure to do so resulting in heavy fines and penalties. On the other hand, when an international organisation proposed an agreement between countries to expose the dealings of offshore account holders – an agreement that was based on Fatca – the United States refused to sign on. Since 2014, 97 nations have signed the agreement, requiring them to disclose activities – the bank accounts, the investments, and trusts – of international customers. Amongst those who declined: the illustrious and powerful nations of Bahrain, Nauru and Vanuatu – oh, and the United States of America.

“How ironic–no, how perverse–that the USA, which has been so sanctimonious in its condemnation of Swiss banks, has become the banking secrecy jurisdiction du jour,” wrote Peter A. Cotorceanu, a lawyer at Anafor AG, a Zurich law firm, in a recent legal journal. “That ‘giant sucking sound’ you hear? It is the sound of money rushing to the USA.”

The same international organisation that attempted to sign the U.S. onto an agreement that would increase transparency in overseas finances, the OECD, once called Panama the “last major holdout” in maintaining secrecy and hiding funds offshore. However, as a result of increased scrutiny from the Panamanian government and, of course, as a result of the recent Panama Papers leaks, it is looking as if Panama is no longer going to be

THE NEW SWITZERLAND - THE "BIGGEST TAX HAVEN IN THE WORLD" - THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

a viable destination for the discerning tax-dodger. With wealthy individuals pulling their money out of tax havens from all around the world, where could they possibly want to put it?

Perhaps, in one of the only countries that have so far failed to sign on to a major agreement regarding increased transparency for international account holders? A country that is already seeing a growth in firms willing to set-up companies with the benefits of low taxation. A country that, in some states, requires less proof of identity to set up a company, than it does to get a library card.

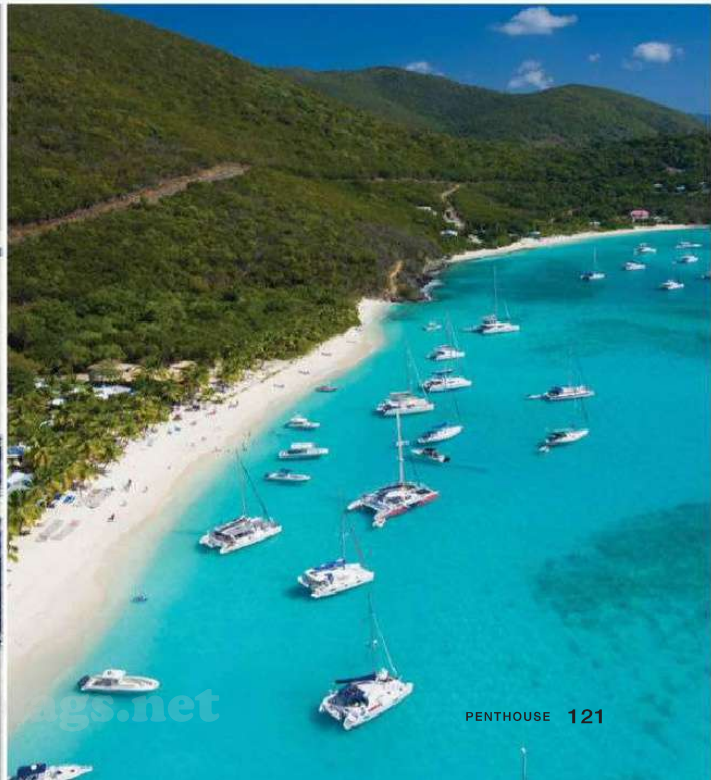
The new Switzerland – the “biggest tax haven in the world” – The United States of America.

It would be interesting, albeit perhaps overly-conspiratorial of this author, to suggest a connection between the restrictions being placed on overseas tax havens, the Panama Papers and the powerful legal and financial firms offering to set up minimally taxed companies in the U.S.

Luckily, there is no need. The conspiratorial types are already forming their own conclusions.

Notably, Bradley Birkenfeld, arguably the most significant financial whistleblower of all time. During his time as a Swiss banker, Birkenfeld handed over information on numerous U.S. tax evaders. His whistleblowing earned him \$104 million from the IRS and two years in a U.S. federal prison.







In an interview with CNBC, Birkenfeld argued that the source of the Panama Papers leak was not a whistleblower like himself, but rather the result of a coordinated intelligence operation directed from the United States.

"The CIA, I'm sure is behind this, in my opinion," Birkenfeld told CNBC.

The basis for his accusation was the absence of American citizens labelled in the hack in contrast with the number of "enemies of the United States". He was referring to the number of high-profile citizens from countries such as China, Russia, Pakistan and Argentina who had been named in the Panama Papers hack.

Of course, there remains the question: if the CIA or other U.S. intelligence agencies orchestrated the hack, why would they implicate David Cameron or the Prime Minister of Iceland?

Birkenfeld believes they were simply collateral damage.

During his time as a Swiss banker, he knew that Mossack Fonesca was a piece of the offshore banking puzzle that enabled individuals to hide money from tax authorities, but mentioned that they were relatively small in the grand scheme of things.

Conspiracy aside, the revelation that the mega wealthy elite have been gaming the system is huge.

Well, it should be huge.

There has always been the suspicion that the 1 per cent do not play by the same rules as regular people. However here, we have hard evidence; and likely just the tip of the iceberg. How many more hypocritical politicians and shady billionaires are living off of the services that are provided through tax money – the roads, the hospitals, the educational facilities – that are paid for by average people on average incomes? The unfortunate reality is that we have become desensitised to these kinds of abuses of power. It is an incredible shame that we have practically come to expect it. That when faced with the sheer level of unmitigated corruption we simply shrug and move on.

So why should billionaires have all the fun?

That's why we present to you a 'how to' guide for setting up your own offshore company. It's surprisingly easy. Just make sure you pay your fair share of tax.

Firstly, a simple Google search will suffice. The establishment of offshore companies is not illegal and not even particularly expensive. Whilst usually the realm of very wealthy individuals, an offshore company will most likely set you back around \$2000.

Once you have established which firm you want to do business with (protip: Mossack Fonesca may not be the best choice), it's time to put in some details.

You can pick your company name - make it something interesting- like 'April Fool' - the offshore company held by Sanford Weill, former CEO of Citigroup.

You are then able to choose from the veritable selection of tax havens around the world. This includes the Cayman Islands, Samoa, Panama, the Seychelles, the British Virgin Islands and Belize. Of course, you could always nominate to set up your

company in the United States; however, if you live there, it's probably not the best idea.

The U.S. isn't fond of its own citizens avoiding taxation – but if you are from another country, by all means, the U.S. may be one of the best locations for your company. In fact, you may be able to do so with little to no identification –as mentioned previously, in many states it is harder to get a library card than to set up an offshore company.

The next thing you will be asked to do is to nominate a company director. In most cases, this is not you. Of course, you're not trying to hide anything. You simply don't want to be linked to the dealings of your offshore company in any way. Just in case.

So, you pay an extra fee to nominate a director. At Mossack Fonesca, this would usually be the name of one of the employees at the firm. At times this can lead to awkward scenarios, such as when one of the co-founders of Mossack became the director of a company owned by one of the most notorious Mexican drug traffickers of all time...

Still, this is not illegal. So you should probably do it. Just in case.

As part of this agreement, some firms will even provide you with a signed, undated copy of your director's resignation letter. This is so you have complete control – you can even backdate the letter, just in case you need them to have already resigned.

You will most likely be asked for a notarised copy of your passport and a utility bill. This is so that the company knows who you are and where you live. But don't worry, it would take a leak of seismic proportions to have this information revealed – most companies go to

great lengths to protect their client's identity.

In the case that you really don't want any relationship with the company - simply pay a lawyer or close childhood friend - and use their identity to add an extra layer of secrecy. Just in case.

Like many services, there are additional options for the savvy offshore account holder – for an added price - of course. One such add-on is to buy a 'shelf-company'. This is a company that was established many years earlier. This way, your brand new company will appear to have existed for longer than it really has. Particularly useful if you are looking to get a bank loan or confuse any authorities who might be trying to track you down. We presume that you aren't doing anything nefarious with your newly established company in the Cayman Islands, so you should probably do this - as it is completely legal.

After as little as 48 hours, you will be the proud owner of your very own offshore company.

Congratulations, you can now conduct completely legitimate business dealings that will be virtually untraceable. The only difference between you and a billionaire is that if you get caught doing anything remotely suspicious, you will end up in a federal prison. You won't have the army of litigators or the government connections to protect you or the hidden mansions and yachts to hide away in. No, in the end of the day, you're still a regular guy with holdings in an offshore company. ☺

THE REVELATION THAT THE MEGA WEALTHY ELITE HAVE BEEN GAMING THE SYSTEM IS HUGE

UNDERGROUND JAIL BREAK

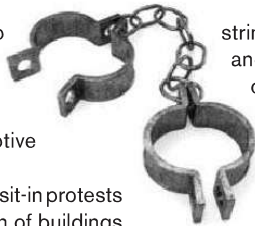
WHAT DO A VIOLENT PROTEST GROUP, THE VIETNAM WAR
AND LSD GURU TIMOTHY LEARY HAVE IN COMMON?

THE Weathermen were a radical group that formed in June 1969 after years of protesting against the Vietnam War. They splintered from non-violent student protest groups and set out to stage violent, disruptive actions against the United States Government.

Their members had started out staging peaceful sit-in protests that in one example led to the six-day occupation of buildings at Columbia University in April 1968. Police eventually broke up the protest, injuring and arresting many students.

Key organiser Mark Rudd was expelled from Columbia University and went into radicalism full time with Students For A Democratic Society (SDS), giving talks all around the country. Internal strife at SDS saw the Weathermen split, their name inspired by the Bob Dylan lyric, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows."

The horror of Vietnam drove them to try and bring the war home. They had made the radical leap to resolve that if a person supported or was indifferent to the war, they were enabling that suffering, and were fair targets.



string of bombings at courthouses, jails, police stations and government buildings, disrupting the mechanics of what they saw as the war machine.

At this point occurs one of the strangest episodes in the history of The Weather Underground. In 1970, East Coast LSD guru Timothy Leary was sitting in a California prison on a 10-year sentence for possession of two marijuana joints. He had been a prominent exponent of psychedelics since the early '60s, having taken hundreds of acid trips himself, and calling upon American society to expand their minds and create a better world.

Leaving aside the obvious perils of recommending that every person take LSD, Leary was a highly visible figure of the counter-culture who stood in opposition to the state. Authorities must have been glad to have a lunatic of this calibre behind bars. However, something remarkable was about to happen.

Associates of Leary paid The Weather Underground a disputed figure of around \$25,000 to bust him out of prison

BERNARDINE DOHRN, BILL AYERS AND KATHY BOUDIN WERE AMONG THE MOST WANTED FUGITIVES IN THE UNITED STATES

The group initiated the Days Of Rage in Chicago in October 1969. Imagine lines of kids in their teens and early 20s, wearing motorcycle helmets with baseball bats, running through town breaking windows, ultimately stepping to the Chicago police over three days.

What was planned to be a mass uprising saw relatively low turn out and hundreds were thrown in jail. Organisers were dispirited not to have attracted broader support. Facing their enemies in the open was not the way forward. They turned to covert sabotage.

Five months later, three Weathermen were killed in an accidental explosion in New York while preparing bombs to set off at a military officers' ball in March 1970. The trauma of this event caused the group to change their views on violence and plan actions to avoid hurting people.

They became The Weather Underground as central members went into hiding from law enforcement. Bernardine Dohrn, Bill Ayers and Kathy Boudin were among the most wanted fugitives in the United States. The group conducted a

and help him escape the country. How on earth did people living on the run and bombing government buildings liberate such a recognisable prison inmate?

According to Bryan Burrough in his 2015 book, 'Days of Rage: America's Radical Underground, the FBI, and the Forgotten Age', the escape wasn't as exciting as it sounds. San Luis Obispo was a minimum-security prison. Leary apparently walked out of his cell, climbed onto the roof of a building and shimmied along a hundred-foot cable and over the wall. After hiding in a ditch he was picked up by Weather Underground operatives in a van, before escaping the country and later uniting with Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver in Algeria, broadcasting a defiant message back to the American people.

The action was designed to appeal the Weather Underground to the Flower Power generation. A strange propaganda coup for a radical organisation on the run from the FBI, with the Vietnam War set to rage on for another five years. ☯➡



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ROOM WITH A VIEW

A young model, an apartment in Italy, and no plans for the day...

Photography: Marco Michieletto
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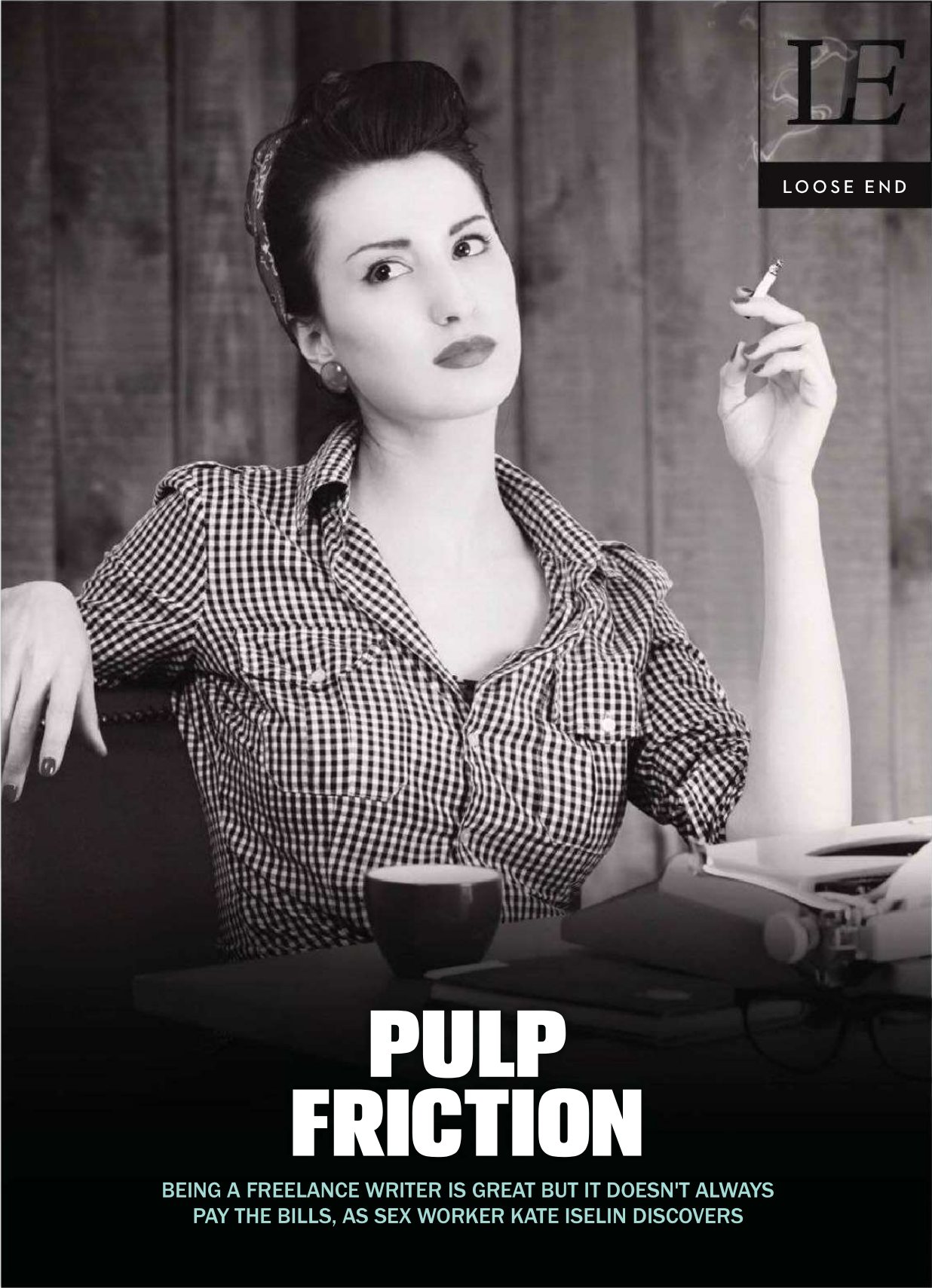
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LOOSE END

PULP FRICTION

BEING A FREELANCE WRITER IS GREAT BUT IT DOESN'T ALWAYS
PAY THE BILLS, AS SEX WORKER KATE ISELIN DISCOVERS



SEX AND THE WRITTEN WORK

THE REALITIES OF FREELANCING BY KATE ISELIN

I'M NOT the first freelance writer to pay her bills by doing sex work, and if the current economy is anything to go by I won't be the last. In Sydney, where just within the past week a good friend told me she moved in to a 'quaint attic space' for the princely sum of \$280 a week and yet another friend invited me to join him at a café where I would be unlikely to get change from \$20 after ordering a smoothie, sometimes I'm surprised that there aren't more creatives lining up at the knock-shop raising money to get their books published, photos printed, and music recorded.

Of course, I shouldn't sound so blasé about it. I am aware I'm discussing a profession that chews people up and spits them out at an alarming rate; an industry in which many of my contemporaries indulge in illicit sexual affairs, use alcohol and hard drugs on a shockingly regular basis, and bring their long-held personal grudges into the workplace with often-dangerous results. Yes, in this industry my work is commonly undervalued, my services haggled over, my job security almost non-existent, and payment for my time sometimes arrives late or not at all. Oh – you do know I'm talking about writing, here, right?

If I had a dollar for every time I told someone I work in the sex industry and they looked down on me with pity and sadness, I could happily retire right now. Conversely, stating that I'm a writer generates exclamations of joy and

"I'M NOT THE FIRST FREELANCE WRITER TO PAY HER BILLS BY DOING SEX WORK, AND IF THE CURRENT ECONOMY IS ANYTHING TO GO BY I WON'T BE THE LAST"

excitement, despite the fact that writing is often the trickier to manage of my two professions. Unlike writing, sex work is rarely if ever something I will be asked to do 'for exposure'; and although fucking strangers may not be everyone's idea of an empowering feminist occupation, there's a high chance I leave the parlour feeling a lot better about myself than the kid who recently taste-tested and reviewed twelve cans of cat food for BuzzFeed.

Of course, writing isn't all stress and struggle. I do genuinely love it, and have enormous pride in the work I've done: I have met and interviewed some amazing people, I have a memoir on the way, and of course I'm published in the pages of this very magazine. I'll hopefully still be writing long after my ankles give out and can't be strapped in to stilettos to prowling the parlour floor anymore. Although just as I was beginning to think this was my more palatable profession, an internet commenter left me a note saying that one day I would be embarrassed by 'putting myself out there like this', referring not to sex work but to my written oeuvre, which apparently contained enough discussion of heavily personal topics to convince him that one day I would look back in regret.

I suppose you can't win them all, and maybe it's true that when it comes to work, capitalism is screwing us all – but at least with sex work, I get to choose the position. 

Dear Feminists,

Please stop objectifying women. I know you think objectification is something only ugly men with paunches and a collection of stained porno mags do. But you're wrong.

You, the self-styled warriors for womankind, have proven yourselves dab hands at the objectification of women. In fact, if, as my dictionary informs me, objectification is the reduction of an individual to the level of an object, bereft of sentience and the ability to think for itself, then I can think of no one in the West who has objectified women more than you have in recent years.

Everything you write about our supposedly sexist culture drips with contempt, not only for men, but most strikingly for women. In both your pity for the women who pose for men's magazines, whom you view as having "internalised misogyny", and your concern for the women who might see such saucy images, whose self-esteem you think will be "negatively impacted", you continually give the impression that women are weak-minded. That they lack the moral capacity either to choose for themselves to do raunchy photo shoots or to be able to deal with seeing raunchy photos without melting into a puddle of self-doubt.

In other words, you treat women as objects. As things that can be easily cajoled into doing stuff they don't really want to and who do not enjoy the same ability as men to view certain images without coming to grave moral harm. The alleged sexual objectification of women done by men's mags pales into insignificance in comparison with your far more disturbing moral objectification of women.

This paternalistic — or perhaps maternalistic — treatment of women as objects was crystal clear in a recent piece by Aussie journalist Tracey Spicer. She laid into what she called "hipster sexism": the rise of hip saucy magazines which feature ironic retro photos of women in kitchens wearing nothing but an apron or in bedrooms sexily applying lipstick as a dude-in-a-suit looks on.

What's remarkable about Spicer's piece is that it totally denudes the women in these photos of autonomy, of any personality at all in fact. She seems to view them as static, unthinking things. She scoffs that these hipsters think it's "empowering to be objectified"; apparently they're trying to make "old-fashioned objects" cool again.

There's no recognition that the models made a choice — a grown-up moral choice to earn a living by posing in very soft sexual photographs. Spicer objectifies the women in these magazines more than the magazines do.

This treatment of women in men's mags as victims — victims of a swirling "rape culture" which apparently instructs women to spend their lives pleasing men — is everywhere right now.

Sure, you feminist critics of sex culture are good at having a pop at blokes. For example, the No More Page 3 campaign in Britain, which fought to have scantily-clad Page 3 girls taken out of *The Sun*, said such images were "conditioning [men] to view women as sex objects". "Conditioning" — that means "the behaviour of an organism that becomes dependent on an event in its environment". That's how some New Feminists view men: as thoughtless collections of cells, moulded by the all-powerful press. As objects, essentially.

But, as an egalitarian, as someone who believes deeply that women should be equal to men, it's what feminists imply about women that really worries me.

You implicitly blame the women who pose for men's mags for rape. Really. When you argue that photos of naked or half-naked women exacerbate "the attitudes and behaviours associated with violence towards women", in the words of one feminist campaign group, you're holding the women in those photos responsible for men's behaviour. "You took your clothes off and it drove a man to rape a woman." It is gross emotional blackmail; it's the worst kind of women-blaming.

Even worse, your treatment of these women as having "internalised misogyny", as having brainlessly imbibed sexist culture and obediently ripped their clothes off for men's pleasure, gives the impression that they have no agency. That they are lesser creatures, constructed by their environment, following cultural orders, slavishly playing their part in the theatre of misogyny.

You have created a new hierarchy. At the top sit you and your friends, clever women with PhDs in Gender Studies, so brilliant and brainy that you're capable of resisting the evil charms of Sexist Culture. And at the bottom are the empty-headed, easily cajoled and, let's not beat around the bush, usually working-class women who decide — yes, decide, like adults — to use their beauty to kickstart a career, who are apparently victims, in need of enlightenment by their feminist betters.

We end up with a very Victorian view of women as requiring moral chaperoning. That, to my mind, is way more insulting, way more objectifying, than a magazine asking a woman (not forcing her) to pose for a sexy photograph. Feminists, you're demeaning women, and it's time to stop. Thanks.

Brendan O'Neill



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